Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
With less than a month to go before the delegate election, have you decided on who to vote for?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Govendo apologizes to Filipinos

»Superior Court Associate Judge says he's no 'loose cannon'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo yesterday stated he is not a "loose cannon" as he extended his apology to all Filipinos and Chamorros who may have been offended with his use of "adios muchacho" phrase in court to a Filipino defendant.

At the sanctions hearing in the CNMI Supreme Court, Govendo stated that he had no idea that the "adios muchacho" phrase would be interpreted as insulting to Filipinos until his then clerk, Myrna Santos, told him about it after the hearing in the Roger Castillo case.

"I was really surprised. So I would like to apologize to every Filipino," he said.

Govendo said he would also like to apologize to Chamorros who may also possibly get offended with his use of such phrase in court.

He said what he really meant in saying the phrase is "boy" or "young man" based on what he watched in a TV program.

Associate Justice Alexandro Castro, and associate justices pro tempore Edward Manibusan and Vern Perez presided over the hearing that will determine what sanctions to be imposed on Govendo. Perez, a Guam Superior Court judge,

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and State Technical Assistance Dr. Carl E. Harris, right, addresses educators, parents, students and guests at a parent forum/town hall hosted by the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan and the Public School System at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan Thursday night. Also in photo is Juan M. Sablan, left, president of the CNMI Parents, Teachers and Students Association.

Harris wants parents to be more involved in education

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Department of Education Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and State Technical Assistance Dr. Carl E. Harris urged parents and guardians in the CNMI to involve themselves more in the education of their children.

Harris, who was the main speaker in Thursday night's Public School System Parents-School-Teacher-Association forum at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Saipan, emphasized the vital role of each parent in the performance of schoolchildren.

"We cannot do this without you. You parents are the first teachers of our children so you have a great power for the success of our kids. We are counting on you," Harris told the crowd of over a hundred parents

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Ada

$392K sole-source contract for Ada to manage ARRA program

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada's private firm bagged on Wednesday a $392,406 sole-source contract from the Fitial administration to remain as the CNMI state lead for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program.

The 13-page contract, a copy of which was obtained yesterday by *Saipan Tribune*, is for "CNMI ARRA Management Services" awarded to Ada's Integrated Professional Solutions.

The contract is for 18 months, to manage all ARRA operations.

Ada's IPS bagged the sole-source contract three days after Ada stepped down from his post on Oct. 9, purportedly to pursue his doctorate studies.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in a statement yesterday, said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had asked

See $392K on Page 4

Local

OIA's Babauta to host economic, labor forum on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta will be hosting a Nov. 9 forum on economic and labor development to discuss a technical assistance program sanctioned by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act or the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

Babauta

Babauta, in a statement yesterday, said the CNRA authorizes the U.S. Department of the Interior, in consultation with the CNMI government, the Departments of Commerce and Labor, and members of the private sector, to establish a technical assistance program to promote the growth and diversification of the CNMI economy, the hiring of U.S.-eligible workers, and the recruiting and training for jobs in the main industries.

"I believe that we can design technical assistance that will help creatively address the issues faced by employers and employees alike," Babauta said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial "absolutely welcomes the forum."

"As a matter of fact, the setting of the date on November 9th is a result of several direct communications between Governor Fitial and Assistant Secretary Babauta. We're very much optimistic and upbeat about the possibility to spur economic growth in the CNMI. The administration is a staunch supporter of all kinds of programs that will help reinvigorate the availability of jobs for our people. During these tough economic times, we must avail of any opportunities that will help families meet their financial obligations," Demapan said.

The forum will be held on Nov. 9 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa on Saipan from 8am to 4 pm.

"This forum will be the opportunity for the people of the Commonwealth to have an influence in the future of the territory's economy as well as the employment outlook for U.S. citizens, nationals, and permanent residents," Babauta added.

Demapan also said all the local agencies that are interconnected to the mission of the forum will be participating as it would present a great deal of economic opportunities for the people of the CNMI.

This will be Babauta's first time to visit the CNMI since he presented the Fitial administration in April with a copy of the Interior report to the U.S. Congress recommending improved immigration status for foreign workers who have been legally residing in the CNMI for at least five years.

More than two years since the signing of the CNRA and almost a year after actual federal border control of the CNMI took effect, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has yet to issue regulations governing foreign investors and foreign workers in the CNMI.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

USS *Louisville* (SSN-724) Commanding Officer Lee P. Sisco, right, reads the plaque of appreciation presented to Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan and Armed Forces Committee chair and Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman during the Chamber-hosted dinner reception at the Hard Rock Cafe on Oct. 14.

Chamber fetes crew of USS *Louisville*

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce sponsored a dinner reception for the visiting crew of USS *Louisville* (SSN-724) last Oct. 14 at the Hard Rock Café in Garapan.

Named after the city in Kentucky, USS *Louisville* (SSN-724) is a Los Angeles class nuclear attack submarine and the 21st ship in that class built by Electric Boat.

USS *Louisville* was commissioned in November 1986 and is the fourth ship in the U.S. Navy to bear the name.

The submarine, with its 15 officers and 120 enlisted crew, arrived on Oct. 9 for a week of relaxation and recreation.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman, Armed Forces Committee chair of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said it's always a pleasure working with the Armed Forces visiting the island.

"I hope you enjoyed your stay in our beautiful island," Wiseman told the USS *Louisville* crew Thursday night.

Wiseman and Chamber president Douglas Brennan gave some Chamber caps to the officers of the USS *Louisville*.

Commanding Officer Lee P. Sisco presented a plaque of appreciation to Brennan and Wiseman.

"On behalf of the USS *Louisville*, we'd like to thank the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for their warm hospitality," he said.

Sisco also thanked the staff and management of Hard Rock Café for the dinner reception.

USS *Louisville* is scheduled to leave Saipan today. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Fitial withdraws Tan's reappointment to MVA board

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial withdrew the appointment of Jerry Tan to the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors last Wednesday.

Tan, who was reappointed to the same post last July 21, has yet to be confirmed by the Senate as required by the Constitution. His reappointment is for another four-year term.

"We re-appointed Mr. Jerry Tan to serve as a member of the MVA board of directors representing Saipan for another four-year term. This appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate. However, it is with deep regret to inform you that I am withdrawing his appointment at this time," the governor told Senate President Paul A. Manglona in his letter last Wednesday.

Tan is the president of Tan Holdings and former chairman of the MVA board.

According to the governor's press secretary, Angel A. Demapan, the withdrawal of Tan's nomination is a result of an Oct. 1 news report that the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation will no longer review the governor's nominations for CNMI boards or commissions.

"In view of this threat by the EAGI, the administration has decided that it would withdraw its nominations that are soon to lapse in the EAGI committee," said Demapan yesterday.

He said the administration values the abilities and expertise that nominees like Tan bring to government boards and commissions. "In this case, Mr. Tan has been a major player in the development of tourism-based programs and initiatives. It is not prudent to let his nomination sit in the EAGI files until his review period lapses simply because the committee decided to hostage executive appointments," said the press secretary.

"We hope that soon enough, the EAGI will decide to once again embrace its function and duty to review executive appointments and act on them accordingly and in the best interests of the Commonwealth," added Demapan. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Rota lawmakers laud Cape Air/Continental

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The four-member Rota Legislative Delegation adopted a resolution thanking Cape Air/Continental Micronesia for providing air service and community support to Rota and the CNMI.

Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 17-2's adoption on Oct. 7 came two days after Continental suspended its air service to Rota on Oct. 5 to give way to the required scheduled maintenance work on its ATR aircraft.

The airline, however, earlier told Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) that the air service to Rota will resume after April 2011.

The air service is operated by Continental Connection partner, Cape Air, using ATR aircraft with 46 economy class seats.

"Continental Airlines has been an active participant in the development of this region since the commencement of its flight service in 1968… The people of the (CNMI) are extremely grateful to Cape Air/Continental Connection as they have announced that they will resume flight services to Rota in April of 2011," the resolution reads.

Besides Manglona, the other lawmakers who approved the resolution were Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota).

While Continental Micronesia began providing services to the region in 1968, Cape Air/Continental Connection began their initial service in the CNMI on July 1, 2004.

The resolution says Cape Air, throughout its six years of service, supported and sponsored senior citizens month events; supported and donated cargo space for both the Rota annual San Francisco De Borja and San Isidro fiestas; and consistently supported school functions on Rota.

Despite the suspension of flights to Rota, Cape Air will continue to operate multiple daily flights between Guam's A.B. Won Pat International Airport and Saipan International Airport.

Korea's popular 'Sunday, Sunday Night' films on Saipan

"Sunday, Sunday Night," the longest-running entertainment show in South Korea, is airing two segments this month filmed on Saipan, and is expected to bring over $1 million in ad exposure to this resort destination

Korea is one of the primary tourism markets of the Northern Marianas, and the show segment "Hot Brothers" is expected to reach 15 million viewers through its airing on two consecutive Sundays, Oct. 10 and 17, 2010.

This is excellent exposure for the Northern Marianas, and a good investment of our resources," said Marianas Visitors Authority Marketing managing director Perry Tenorio.

The MVA assisted the film crew with permits and logistics during the filming.

"Sunday, Sunday Night" airs on Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation, one of the Top 3 TV networks in Korea. While in the Northern Marianas, the show filmed its "Entertainment Training Camp" segments on location at award-winning Managaha Island, secluded Jeffrey's Beach, the main tourist district of Garapan, Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, and San Antonio Beach. They also filmed various water sports and hotel guest rooms and lobbies.

Two episodes of the show were filmed in the Northern Marianas from Sept. 25 to 28.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seven Korean comedians, actors, and musicians from MBC TV's "Sunday, Sunday Night—Hot Brothers" show pose for the camera after they finished filming at Managaha island on Saipan last Sep. 27. From the left are Kura Kim, Hwi-Soon Park, Sang-Jin Han, Simon D, Jae-Hoon Tak, Myung-Soo Park, and Ki-Kwang Lee.

Carolinian dancers from the Northern Mariana Islands and seven Korean entertainers at the filming of MBC TV's "Sunday, Sunday Night–Hot Brothers" show—a popular Korean Sunday evening entertainment show—on Sep. 26, at Jeffrey's Beach, Saipan. The Korean entertainers were given a mission to make the "chief" laugh.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kilili: $13M in credit aid now available to help small business in the Commonwealth

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan said that $13,168,350 is being allocated for lending here in the Northern Mariana Islands for small businesses by the U.S. Treasury Department, in a key step of implementing the just-passed Small Business Jobs Act. The CNMI can now apply for its allocation.

"One of the key provisions of the Small Business Lending Act, which we passed last month and the President has now signed, is the State Small Business Credit Initiative," Sablan explained.

"The law provides federal funds to States that partner with private lenders to extend greater credit to small businesses.

"For purposes of this law the Northern Mariana Islands is treated as a state. And the amount of funding we are allocated is the same as 28 other States.

"But, of course, the Commonwealth has to decide to take advantage of this opportunity to encourage economic development and small business expansion."

States are required to demonstrate a minimum "bang for the buck" of $10 in new private lending for every $1 in federal funding.

There is also a new $30 billion Small Business Lending Fund to encourage community banks to provide small business loans. Any community bank that is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation qualifies to participate.

In addition, the Small Business Lending Act, extends and expands existing Small Business Administration low-cost loans. The SBA loan participation may now be 90 percent, up from the previous limit of 75 percent. And the cap on SBA loans is raised from $1.5 million to $4.5 million.

Finally, there are eight tax incentives to further encourage small business development. The law provides for the existing 100 percent capital-gains tax relief to extend to January 1, 2012. Sole proprietors may also continue to write off health-insurance premiums as business expenses in 2010.

Other tax incentives include an increase in the qualifying property cap for purposes of expense deductions from $800,000 to $2 million. And the new law treats computer software as qualified property for purposes of expense deduction. ***(PR)***

Pamphlets for House Legislative Initiatives out

Are you aware of the House Legislative Initiative 16-13, 16-18, and 17-1? For more information you can pick up pamphlets at the following dates and locations:

SAIPAN		
Oct. 16	Dolphin Wholesale	11am-6pm
Oct. 16	Sabalu Market	7:30am-11am
Oct. 21	Northern Marianas College,	5pm-6:25pm
TINIAN		
Oct. 15	Tinian Youth Center	7:30pm
ROTA		
Oct. 15	Rota Song Song Round House	7pm

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NEW SHINTANI CORP., Plaintiff, vs. ABRAHAM OGO, Defendant.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-0406R NOTICE OF AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Amended Writ of Execution approved by Court Order in this matter on October 14, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Parcel of land sometimes known as Lot No. 355 R 07, which contains an area of 4,129 square meters, more or less, and located in Rota, CNMI, as listed in the Deed of Gift recorded on September 19, 2003 as Document No. 03-2072. This property is a subdivision of Joaquin M. Ogo=s former lot called Lot 355 R 01, as more particularly described as Cadastral Plat No. 355 R 00, the original of which was registered February 14, 1979 as Document No. 8009 at Land Registry, Saipan.

1. Date, Time and Place of Sale: The Sale will be held on **Friday, October 22, 2010 at the hour of 12:00 p.m.**, at the Rota Superior Court, Rota. The sale will be open to the general public.

2. Change of Terms and Conditions: The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 15th day of October, 2010.

/s/ Loren A. Sutton
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$392K

From Page 1

Ada to remain as the CNMI state lead for ARRA program because he is the "lone individual in the CNMI with historical and current knowledge and skill set required to manage the ARRA funds awarded to the CNMI."

The CNMI government alone stands to get $100 million from ARRA.

Demapan said the Fitial administration had to move quickly on the contract to prevent any loss of federal dollars to the CNMI because in the absence of a contractual agreement with Ada, there was no state lead.

He said this is of particular concern because Ada was required to respond to inquiries on the recently completed 1512 reports from federal grantors, as well as work with the U.S. Department of Education on getting the Maintenance-of-Effort waiver approved.

"Ada is the only one with the understanding of what has been going on with these federal grantors," Demapan added.

He also said the funds used to cover the contractual agreement are derived from the allowable administrative rate that the CNMI uses to administer the ARRA program.

Privatization of ARRA management

Fitial, in a statement, said the IPS contract "was to essentially privatize the ARRA management" to Ada's company as a professional contractor.

Under the terms of the contract, IPS will absorb the government employees paid under the ARRA office, covering payroll, benefits, and all other related expenses associated with operating the office.

"Many jurisdictions across the nation have outsourced the management of their ARRA funds to large consulting firms; however, the CNMI was not in a financial position to follow suit at the onset of the ARRA program," Fitial added.

Demapan said the governor, upon learning of Ada's intent to depart from government service, asked Ada to remain on as the CNMI state lead for ARRA programs.

"Ada was insistent that he no longer wished to be an employee of the CNMI government and that if the CNMI wished to retain his expertise they would have to do so in a professional services capacity," the press secretary said.

The ARRA program only has 18 months remaining.

Payments

Based on the contract and the attachments, Ada's firm was to get an advance payment of $78,418 upon completion of all contract signatures.

The firm will then get paid $15,260 every month starting on Nov. 15, 2010 until April 15, 2012. Upon contract completion, the company will get $39,240.

When Ada was still in government, he was not paid separately for his duties as a Commerce secretary and as CNMI state lead for ARRA program. He was reportedly earning annually less than $50,000 in government.

Demapan said Fitial, in an effort to maintain Ada's expertise for the duration of the ARRA, requested the Office of the Public Auditor for guidance on maintaining Ada in a contractual capacity to manage the entire ARRA operations.

"While OPA agreed with the governor with respect to Ada's qualifications, they were required to reserve judgment as an appellate body. Shortly after Ada's departure, the Office of the Governor executed a contract with Integrated Professional Solutions, LLC (IPS) in the amount of $392.406 for a period of 18 months to manage all ARRA operations," he said.

HARRIS

From Page 1

from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The visiting official lauded the "vision" and "leadership" shown by PSS and NMI education stakeholders for student learning. He said efforts he had seen in the Commonwealth are aligned with the federal government's goal for education in all states and insular areas through President Obama's "A Blueprint for Reform," which is the reauthorization of the elementary and secondary education act.

He cited six main areas of priority for reform: the college- and career-ready students; meeting the needs of diverse learners; successful, safe and healthy schools; great teachers and great leaders; effective teaching and learning for a complete education; and fostering innovations and excellence.

Harris said the blueprint proposes to raise the standards for all students, develop better assessment tools that will better capture higher-order skills, and will provide more accurate measures of student growth. The federal government will also support states, districts, school leaders, and teachers in implementing a more complete education through improved professional development and evidence-based instructional models and supports.

Harris also pointed out the need to fill all classrooms and schools with great teachers and leaders who will provide quality instruction to children.

The blueprint also aims to increase the number of college graduates in all nations—both four- and two-year college courses and universities.

"It requires every single one of us to be accountable and responsible to the education of our children. I challenge you all to continue provide support to our kids because if you invest in your child's education, you will see a good result," he said.

Crystal Martinez, special advisor on congressional affairs, said she was truly "moved" by the commitment shown by the CNMI community to the education of children on the islands.

She educates the parents and teachers on the various opportunities offered by the federal government for deserving students and educators.

Individuals who also delivered their messages to the crowd were U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan, who sponsored the event through his town hall meeting; Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita; Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita A. Sablan; and PSS Parents Council president Juan Sablan.

Guests from the federal agency were awarded plaques of appreciation and were offered leis and mwars by participating parents at the end of the ceremony.

GOVENDO

From Page 1

joined in the panel after Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan recused from the case.

After conducting the hearing that lasted for almost three hours, Castro said they would listen to the tapes of four hearings in the afternoon yesterday. He said they would then issue a written decision.

The Supreme Court had found Govendo's use of "adios muchacho" and other statements in court in two adoption cases to be racially derogatory and a violation of canons and rules for judicial conduct.

At the hearing, Govendo called to the witness stand Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona, presiding judge Robert C. Naraja, and his former clerk, Myrna Santos.

In the closing arguments, Govendo said his wife is a local, but that he had no idea that for Filipinos and to Chamorros the word muchacho means a servant or a household slave.

Govendo maintained that he was not stepping over the line when he stated in the Castillo hearing he was going to call the Office of the Attorney General and recommend that the defendant be prosecuted.

The judge stated it is easier said than done for a judge to be politically correct as what special ethics prosecutor Bruce A. Bradley wants him to do.

"I admit I got frustrated with Mr. Castillo," said Govendo, adding that the defendant appeared before him 18 times in three separate criminal cases.

Govendo said he is taking his job seriously that's why he was very emotional in that case.

"I'll try to be careful as I can with the language," the judge said.

Govendo noted that Presiding Judge Robert Naraja in his testimony did not say bad things about him.

Govendo said he was shocked when judge Manglona made a determination that he violated judiciary conduct without talking to him.

He said the disciplinary proceedings affected his wife and family as everything in this case is in public.

Govendo said the feedback however from the community has been positive that he should continue serving in the family court.

Govendo stressed he has no intention of resigning from the bench.

He said about 70 percent voted him to retain on the bench during the November 2007 election.

"I'm not leaving," he said.

On Justice Castro's question to Naraja about the possibility of taking him out from the family court, Govendo said it is like putting him on judicial vacation.

"I humbly think that I can do better than the other judges as family court judge," he said.

He, however, stated that if the panel thinks that he's burn out, then taking him out from the family court is an alternative

"I think I have been punished enough," Govendo said, adding that the case should have been handled in-house or internally.

Govendo said a public reprimand would be fine for him as sanctions. He disagreed with Bradley's suggestion to slap him with suspension and probation and look for "iceberg."

Govendo said he will abide with whatever sanctions the court imposes.

Bradley conducted a long opening argument but made a short closing argument.

In his opening, Bradley cited Govendo's continued defiance of the Supreme Court's entry of an order making multiple findings of misconduct.

Bradley corrected himself that there's four relevant incidents and not just three as he earlier disclosed to the court.

He noted that in its December 2007 opinion, the Supreme Court took extreme steps by scolding Govendo for his use of inappropriate language during the two adoption hearings.

The prosecutor said that's significant because less than 10 months later, Govendo conducted the Kurk Palacios sentencing hearing.

In the Palacios hearing, he said, the judge did not heed the Supreme Court.

Bradley cited at least six Govendo statements that allegedly contained inappropriate language.

Bradley said Govendo believed that Castillo was extremely dangerous, yet he released the defendant and placed the case under advisement.

Bradley noted that in the Castillo hearing the issue is not more than the adios muchacho statement.

He said while sitting in the case, Govendo threatened to impact a pending case by threatening to call the OAG and recommend for the defendant's prosecution.

"Judge Govendo doesn't understand the propriety of his statements," he said.

Bradley then read Govendo's statements in the Palacios hearing.

"The defiance of Govendo is surprising," the prosecutor said.

In his opening statements, Govendo read the disciplinary procedures and pointed to the words "expedious and fair disposition."

He said his case is now one year and 11 months old.

"Is that expeditious?" Govendo asked.

As to why he did not send Castillo to jail on the spot, Govendo said it not that simple as there should be a determination whether it is a civil or criminal contempt.

There is no tip of an iceberg as there is no iceberg, said Govendo, referring to Bradley's statement in the memorandum that the incidents involving Govendo merely be the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

Govendo first called Naraja and then Manglona to the witness stand.

Naraja testified that he assigned Govendo to handle Family Court because he remember Govendo once telling him when he became a presiding judge not to give him the Family Court.

Naraja said he eventually gave the assignment to Govendo to challenge the judge. Naraja's statement drew laughter from the audience who watched the proceedings.

Govendo asked Naraja if he believes he (Govendo) is a very good Family Court judge.

"In my opinion you are a decent judge," Naraja said. "You speak from your heart. I appreciate that."

Govendo asked if Naraja's father was a Filipino.

Naraja said yes.

"Do you think I'm racially insensitive toward Filipinos," Govendo asked.

Naraja replied that based on their seven years working together in court, he found Govendo a decent person.

Asked by Govendo what's recommendation for his sanctions, Naraja said he will ask to give the judge utmost consideration.

Castro asked if he ever thought of relieving Govendo from the stressful job as Family Court judge.

"I can reconsider that," Naraja replied.

Naraja said he took many cases out from Govendo so the judge could work effectively.

Naraja said Govendo is so enthusiastic in handling the Family Court, but if the panel wants to relieve the judge from that stressful court, he has no problem with it.

Govendo asked Manglona if she considers him as a colleague since they both assumed at the same time in court.

"Yes I do," Manglona replied.

Govendo asked why in her order she capitalized the words "adios muchacho."

Manglona said she was just copying how the "adios muchacho" was written in the pleadings submitted by Castillo's counsel.

Govendo asked if she was upset with the phrase adios muchacho.

Manglona said she was upset with the statements not just with adios muchacho but others such when Govendo stated he will follow the case to the end, call the OAG, or going to make it his personal journey to make Castillo leave.

Manglona found it troubling because at that time, Castillo had no lawyer.

Manglona said after he sentenced Castillo, she filed the complaint to Chief Justice Miguel Demapan against Govendo.

"You needed to be informed that this is not proper," Manglona told Govendo.

Asked if she is aware that Castillo appeared before his court 18 times, Manglona replied it's not proper for him to investigate that.

Govendo made Manglona read investigating judge Richard Benson's statement that the complaint against Govendo should have been dealt internally.

Manglona said she reported the matter to the Supreme Court because judges should not tolerate things that they believe are not proper.

Manglona said she does respect Govendo, but that she has to do what is right.

She said her concern is to preserve the judiciary's integrity.

Myrna Santos, a Filipina married to a local and Govendo's former clerk, was the last witness to testify.

Santos said she was the law clerk for Govendo when the judge stated the adios muchacho to Castillo.

Santos said after the hearing she told Govendo that muchacho is insulting to Filipinos.

She said Govendo was surprised when she told him about that.

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Diamond G Rice 50 LBS. LIMIT 1 — $23.99

Icis Water 20X500ML. — $4.50 /PACK

READY TO COOK MIXED VEGETABLES

Pancit — $1.25 /PACK

Chopsuey — $1.89 /PACK

Sinigang Nilaga — $1.50

Pakbet — $1.69 /PACK

U.S. PRODUCE

Green Bellpeper — $1.49 LB.

Red Bellpeper — $1.59 LB.

Brocolli — $1.99 LB.

Potato — 79¢ LB.

Yellow Onions — 69¢ LB.

Celery — 79¢ LB.

Cauliflower — $1.09 LB.

Lettuce Cello — 99¢ LB.

Green Cabbage — 79¢ LB.

Jumbo Carrots — 89¢ LB.

Cantaloupe — 89¢ LB.

Honeydew — 99¢ LB.

Grapes — $1.99 LB.

Orange — 89¢ LB.

Fuji Apple — $1.49 LB.

KOREAN PRODUCE

Napa Cabbage — $1.15 LB.

Grapes — $2.99 LB. / $26.00 /BOX

SEAFOODS • GROCERIES • BEVERAGES

Oil Fish Sliced — $3.50 LB.

Vega Shrimp — $4.99 PKG.

Green Shell Mussels — $4.50 PKG.

Sea Wave Calamari — $1.99 PKG.

Leg Quarter #33 — $20.79 CS.

Leg Quarter #22 — $15.79 CS.

Pork Babyribs #10 — $19.49 CS.

Pork Spareribs #20 — $20.49 CS.

OB Beer — $16.95 CS.

Cass Beer — $16.95 CS.

Saan Soju — $28.00 CS.

Chum-Churum — $28.00 CS.

Sashimi — $6.99 LB.

Sam Da Soo Water 500 ML.

Sam Da Soo Water 2 LITER

Sugar BROWN WHITE

Bagels — $2.79

Pita Bread — $2.29

Nong Shim Noodles — 69¢ EA.

All Round Cakes — 20% OFF

Bear Flour

Maxwell House Coffee Mix 240g 20 sticks 600g 50 sticks 1.2 kg. 100 sticks

Lotte Choco Pie 6 PACKS 12 PACKS

Butane Gas — $19.99 CS.

Town House SHOPPING CENTER

Big Blouse — NEW ARRIVAL — 2 for $18.00 1 for $9.99

Ladies Sandals — NEW ARRIVAL — $10.00 - $12.00

Boy's T-Shirt — NEW ARRIVAL — 3 for $10.00

Men's Long Pants — $12.00 - $14.00

Men's Shorts — 2 for $18.00

Kids Blouse — 3 for $10.00

Jar Candle — $1.69 each 10%OFF /case

Assorted Candles — $1.29-$1.79

Cabinet — NOW $199.99

TV Stand — NOW $119.99

Cabinet — NOW $225.99

Assorted Pillow — $5.00 - $8.00

Ladies Bra — NEW ARRIVAL — $3.99 - $5.99

Ladies Dress — NEW ARRIVAL — $12.00 - $15.00

Flowers — 99¢ each

Household Item at low price — 99¢-$5.49

Assorted Blankets — $15.99-$30.99

Futtons — Small $25.00 Medium $30.00 Large $35.00

Table with 6 Chairs Reg. $429.99 — NOW $369.99

Ladies Pants — NEW ARRIVAL — 2 for $18.00

Assorted Ladies & Men's Short — NEW ARRIVAL — 3 for $10.00

Ladies Blouse — NEW ARRIVAL — 2 for $18.00 1 for $9.99

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Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hope and perseverance triumph in the Chilean desert

It is tempting to look for policy significance in Wednesday's rescue of "Los 33," the men trapped for 69 days in a gold and copper mine half of a mile below the northern Chilean desert.

But first let's enjoy the moment. These things, as we've come to know, often end badly, each one a collage of individual tragedies etched on the weathered faces of the survivors.

This one ended splendidly.

Miners go deep under the earth because that is the work that is available to them. They carve out a living, literally, and rarely see the sun. Life is hard and then one day the walls cave in and their families wait until no hope is left.

When the San Jose Mine let go on Aug. 5, it briefly made the international news—33 believed trapped in Chile Mine Collapse. But the world has become inured to disasters in far-away places—mine cave-ins, floods, famine, car bombings, oil well blow-outs. Another day, another disaster.

For 17 days there was the familiar scene, survivors standing with faint hope. But then a probe punched through—and when the probe came back, a note was attached.

Suddenly this was worth some attention. Suddenly it was important to know that Chile is the long, skinny country on the Pacific Coast of South America.

Chile's new president, Sebastian Pinera, a conservative media mogul elected only last March, pledged to move heaven and earth to rescue the miners. He did so, almost literally, and not just with good old-fashioned Chilean know-how. Chile's got money now.

From around the world came the superstars of the rock-drilling world, summoned from all points of the globe to the godforsaken Atacama desert. Fly in Jeff Hart of Denver from Afghanistan, the Yo-Yo Ma of the Shramm T-130 wide-bore rock drill. Get those guys from Alberta with their Precision Rig 421.

The Las Pircas Hotel, 45 minutes away from the San Jose Mine in Copiapo, became headquarters hotel for 9-week-long international convention of deep-rock drillers.

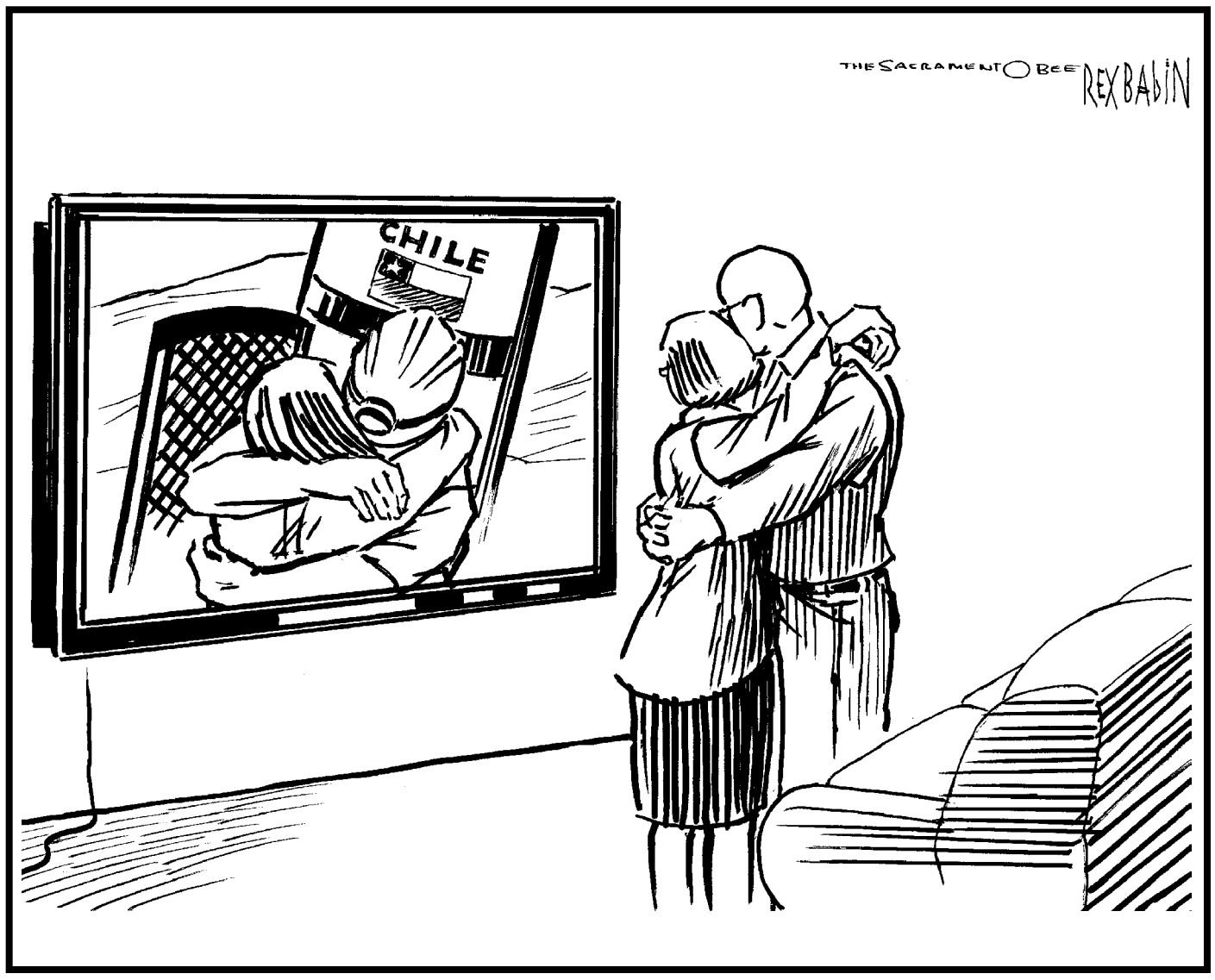
This thing was not done cheaply, nor was it done simply. It was a triumph of modern industrial know-how, air transportation and logistics. Drilling equipment from all over the world was flown in, driven hundreds of miles, un-crated and put to work, day after tedious day.

Below ground the miners were organized for the long haul, even put on diets so they'd be able to squeeze into the rescue capsule. Psychologists and NASA engineers were enlisted for help in long-term survival techniques.

This thing was done well. We trust the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration was paying attention.

On Wednesday came the pay-off. Modern communications let the world share the moment, and maybe wonder why other problems aren't solved so well.

See HOPE on Next Page



Latin America's quiet economic miracle

By FRIDA GHITIS
McClatchy Newspapers

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald*. Readers may send her e-mail at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

While Americans and Europeans, residents of "rich countries," have spent the last few years fretting over their economic future and increasingly embittered with their governments, something remarkable has unfolded quietly in a region that receives little international attention. Latin America now finds itself in the midst of a full-fledged economic miracle.

The region that brought the term "Banana Republic" to the international lexicon of mockery, once the home of dysfunctional economies, runaway inflation and outrageously incompetent regimes, has become, for the most part, home to responsible governments producing impressive economic results and earning the respect of their people.

With the notable exception of Venezuela and its few imitators, Latin economies are booming. In some—Brazil, for example—the country not only moved quickly out of the global recession but emerged at such a scorching pace that the most serious challenge for policy-makers is slowing down the economy lest it overheat. With the United States and Europe struggling to keep from plunging back into recession, Brazil's economy grew at a blistering 8.9 percent in the first half of 2010.

The latest analysis from the International Monetary Fund predicts 2010 GDP up 7.5 percent in Brazil, just one example of a regional phenomenon. Brazil, Peru, Argentina, each should grow more than 7.5 percent, a number that American and European leaders would not contemplate even in their wildest prosperity fantasies.

Chile, which suffered a devastating and costly earthquake this year, will still expand 5 percent. Uruguay's 2010 forecast stands at 8.5 percent, Paraguay at 9 percent and Colombia, still fighting—although winning—a war against leftist insurgents should expand 4.7 percent.

The one country remaining in recession is Hugo Chavez's Venezuela, whose economy the IMF predicts will continue shrinking this year because of "severe supply bottlenecks, challenges from capital flight and generally weak policy frameworks;" in other words, bad government policies. Unlike the rest of the region, Venezuela also suffers from corrosive inflation, about 30 percent per year. The rest of Latin America has managed to keep inflation in single digits.

To be sure, poverty remains an urgent problem in most of the region, and prosperity has been too slow to reach the poorest. But a middle class is gradually emerging in most countries. Corruption and a weak education infrastructure are still a problem. Also troubling is how much of the growth still comes from selling commodities—raw materials—to other countries, particularly China. Commodity exports risk plummeting with sudden drops in price or demand. But some Latin nations are doing a good job of diversifying and salting away their riches in rainy-day funds.

The contrast with the developed world could hardly be sharper. After barely emerging from a recession that nearly became a depression, rich countries are struggling to avoid a double-dip, a return to recession. The chief economist of Goldman Sachs just told investors that in the next six months the U.S. economy will be either "fairly bad" or "very bad." The International Labor Organization has warned that continuing high unemployment threatens to bring social unrest.

North America and Europe, even with deficit-ridden economies, remain much wealthier countries than Latin America. The average citizen lives at a much higher level, but pressures are mounting. Dissatisfaction is simmering on both sides of the Atlantic. Economic anxiety is making the ground fertile for silver-tongued politicians offering populist, crowd-pleasing, but sometimes idiotic economic and social prescriptions. Europeans and Americans are unclear about whether the answer lies in cutting government spending or boosting it.

In the United States, the political system appears designed to function best in good times. These days, voters are increasingly disenchanted with politicians that seem unable to work together, for the country's best interest, during a critical time in the nation's history.

By contrast, Latin America, the land where democracy had such trouble finding its way to people's hearts, has found a strong consensus in favor of democracy. In many countries presidents enjoy stratospheric approval ratings thanks to the strong results they have produced. There is growing agreement that the best approach is to fight poverty aggressively with market-friendly and fiscally responsible policies alongside special programs to lift up the poorest and build up the middle class.

Should Americans and Europeans find the news from Latin America depressing? Not at all. Rich countries spent decades telling the poor how to run their economies. Now the students' success may inspire and perhaps even instruct the teachers.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'God Bless America'

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

It was just shortly after the singing of the anthems before the colors were posted at the Town Meeting with the USDOE visiting officials that Irving Berlin's *God Bless America* came on the sound system. I remember USDOE Deputy Secretary Dr. Carl Harris' facial expression in response to the country-western/deep south version of the song. "Any members of the ACLU in the crowd will have to forgive me; I didn't have anything to do with the programming of that song," was the way it registered in my mind.

In recent usage, the patriotic song popular to Scouts, played at sports events, serves often as an invocation, a "solemn prayer," a practice discouraged, at best, in public schools. It might have been in Hopwood's Jonas Barcinas' CD, lead emcee for the evening, but we will not hold him too closely accountable. In our time of diverse religious sensitivities, a song written by a Jew and popularized in Christian churches might be ecumenical as it comes, but invoking G-O-D, or leading a prayer of any form is still a constitutional No-No in official public gatherings as far as I know. With no less than U.S. Congressman Kilili's office coordinating the affair, the grimace in Dr. Harris' face is understandable.

The room architecture at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa was less conducive to an intimate polylogue that a town meeting session is out to foster. It was "staged" with the leadership team elevated above the audience, a symbol of the archaic hierarchy of experts lording it over the uninitiated, the plebian, the pedestrian, and the proletariat.

Harris did a standard Powerpoint presentation of the national priorities for education reform. The "cradle-to-career" image was helpful though I will stick to my "womb-to-tomb" curricula. A numeric goal was highlighted from the White House: by 2020, America will be back in graduating the highest number of college students in the world. Today, two Chinese universities graduate more PhDs than all U.S. universities combined.

The presentation had all the right code words: parents are a student first teacher(s), teacher's role is critical, administrators need to be highly qualified (effective and efficient), and the system need to ask of its students to do more than they are required. Parents need to know what goes on in the education of their child/ren; DOE/PSS-BoE make sure that they have access to the information they need. Every classroom need a great teacher; every school need a great principal. Failing schools is not an option anymore, and graduating students need to be college and career ready. Blah. Blah. Blah.

We do not think college is suitable for everyone, but he was using codes.

The flag of holistic education was foisted, and then we got to the innovation part. Harris noted the excitement of students on their new laptops, and I remember the recent news of the school system that used its school-issued laptops to spy on their students. Innovation cuts both ways. Only too familiar with the limitations of a national program, I really did not expect Dr. Harris to do anything more than rallying the troops! There were not too many parents in attendance except the usual practicing citizens, e.g., Ed Propst, but this being the first town meeting of its kind in the CNMI, it was ritual before enlightenment.

I skated on the faux pas surface of the unintended *God Bless America* song.

Nineteenth century academics banished the reference of the Padron lording it up in the sky, a Zeus-like (from where the word Deus come from) deity that is often cajoled to interfere in human and natural affairs. Contemporary piety still uses it in prayers and meditations. Former presidentiable Pat Robertson frequently prays for divine diversion of the path of a hurricane. At Sunday worship services, common piety yearns for super acceleration of the remission of cancer cells. But Stephen Hawking's universe does not require an intelligent designer at creation, or a super intervener on human affairs. Responsible Christian atheism is no longer a contradiction in terms.

Neil Douglas-Klotz' *Prayers of the Cosmos* analyzes the vaunted Jesus' Lord's Prayer and discovers that the New Testament Aramaic wording (Jesus' language, and BTW, Jesus was never a Christian; he was a Jew) "Abwoon d'bwashmaya," normally translated as "Our Father who art in Heaven," is not just lost in the translation. It is not accurate at all. Abba, for father was not used; Abwoon refers to the abyss from where everything came from, a reality not from a place called heaven, but from within.

In that sense, and I'm sure that is not what Kate Smith felt when she popularized the song, God has already blessed America, its two and a quarter century democratic experiment, and the future of humanity in the planet itself. To be sure, we have messed up the planet but we do intend not only to innovate the parameters of the human mind, but we are moving into innovating a nation, the United States of America, and planet Eaarth. That was what I thought Harris might say. He did not quite say it well.

As to the brethren/sistern of the religious community, if we would quit fighting over what to name that awesome abyss from where we all ascended/descended, or even worry about whether our definition of his/her/its existence is the same as others' definition, we will stand a chance at innovating our common existence. Focus on the experience of awe, and live the awesomeness as one's own. Naming the name of source becomes immaterial.

Not to worry Mr. Harris. My ACLU membership has been dormant for a long time.

Letters to the Editor

An apology is in order

I would like to apologize to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan. I am the source of a great misunderstanding between our highest-ranking federal official and our highest-ranking local official and I ask both men to please accept my sincere apology.

In a recent speech at the Saipan Rotary Club, Delegate Sablan accused Gov. Fitial of skipping his 2009 swearing-in ceremony—the swearing-in of the first delegate in CNMI history—because the governor had, and I quote, "a meeting to go to."

I take full responsibility for Gov. Fitial missing Delegate Kilili's swearing-in and I hope that both leaders can forgive me. It was my fault that the governor was not there for Kilili's historic day and I would like to clear the record.

You see, for the better part of 2008, I, along with many others, tried to convince President George W. Bush to use his presidential authority to invoke the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate a Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, divers, environmentalists, fishermen, indigenous leaders, a majority of businesses on island, and over 6,000 local residents urged the governor and other local leaders to support the monument, which after some initial hesitation, history will show, they ultimately did.

President George W. Bush very inconveniently chose to designate the monument on the exact same day and at the exact same time that Delegate Kilili was being sworn into Congress. Gov. Fitial was forced to miss Kilili's swearing in ceremony because he was with Ike Cabrera, Agnes McPhetres, and me at the White House watching President Bush protect more of the Earth's surface than any other man who had ever lived.

The reason Gov. Fitial missed Kilili's swearing-in is because he was with the Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument and President Bush. That is the meeting he "had to go to."

If someone is to blame for Gov. Fitial missing Delegate Kilili's ceremony, it is me. I take full responsibility and apologize to both the governor and the delegate.

Angelo Villagomez
Winter Park, FL

What a waste!

The desk audit conducted for the CNMI government under a Department of Interior technical assistance grant was a waste of money and resources. The simple reason and the only reason is that the OPM should have this functional responsibility as one of its basic objective dealing with human resources management under its umbrella jurisdiction. A $300,000 contract to perform this work was a steal and frankly the company (MAI) got the sweetest deal for a straightforward work that should have been performed by OPM as a usual and ordinary course of program objectives. A few months ago, I suggested that this technical assistance grant would be better put to good use in the training of OPM staff to elevate their capacities for this type of work, i.e., the desk audit of positions in the CNMI government.

The CNMI government is already paying for work involving desk audit matters. Each and every human resources management official in any CNMI governmental jurisdictions, where a human resource manager is present, should have a complete expertise on conducting desk audits, as part of the job, and implementing findings of desk audits to improve position management and strengthening the utilization of positions in governmental functions and delivery of services. If for any reasons these so-called competent human resources professionals and managers currently being employed in the CNMI government could not perform this basic human resources function, they ought to be removed and a search for productive and effective human resources practitioner be pursued if the CNMI government is destined to finding solutions to such manifestations of dysfunctions and shortfalls of organizational development made clear by the report in MAI's desk audit study.

If there is waste of government resources, one would be the poor use of professional human resource manager positions because the incumbents in these positions are short changing the CNMI government for services that it should have received a whole package from a bona fide competent human resources practitioner or manager. Now, that MAI has conducted a desk audit, it is now important that a desk audit of the human resource manager positions be conducted to find out exactly how the incumbents in these positions are matching-up to their respective job specifications and expected job elements found in ordinary public sector personnel administration work.

If we continue to allow for this anomaly to perpetuate itself, the CNMI government would continue to drag itself to more dismal situation because it is not addressing the most expensive resources it utilizes to fulfill the delivery of government services, the position it procures for this purpose. Positions paid for by public funds comprised the most expensive part of the budget therefore we ought to be concerned about it.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa

The Dragon

During this unforgettable tragedy that has risen upon my friend, I speak on behalf of his family and I would like to thank Thomas Thornburg for his compassionate words that were published in our islands' newspaper on Oct. 8 entitled "The Dragon."

Our beloved son, brother, and friend, InSung; AKA Joe; AKA Dragon, was indeed a man who was loved by the people of our island. He spoke Korean, English, Chamorro, and Carolinian. He was part of every local culture and was welcome by all families. Everybody took pleasure of his presence. Although he was physically different than you and I are, his mind is truly astonishing. First, the fact that he spoke numerous languages and his capability to get everything he could his own way. His mind to me still remains as one of the most intelligent minds that I will ever know. Just like he chewed that betel nut you mixed for him like it was the last nut available on this island, he also lived every single day like it was his last. He would always tell his father that he had to do this and that he had to do that. He took pride for who he was from the bottom of his heart and never took any day for granted.

Although he didn't walk the way you and I did or talk the way you and I talk he very well walked the walk better than I could ever have and he talked the talk better than most people I know. He had a heart so big and loved those who loved him for who he was. I would like to acknowledge Thomas Thornburg and share that you gave InSung's family happiness and a reason to smile while they read your article.

InSungs sister, InHee translated your words into Korean for her father… and I'd like to let you know that you've inspired InSung's family to smile just a little bit more during this time of devastation.

Meena Benavente
Via email

HOPE

From Page 6

One by one the miners stepped out of the rescue capsule and with one exception, hugged their wives and children and were hustled into a field hospital, looking remarkably well.

The exception, alas, was Yonni Barrios, trapped miner and cheating husband, who became the Tiger Woods of international mining disaster stories after his mistress disclosed that she was waiting for his return as anxiously as his wife. Whatever happens, Mr. Barrios at least has the knowledge that he has survived worse.

(c) 2010, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

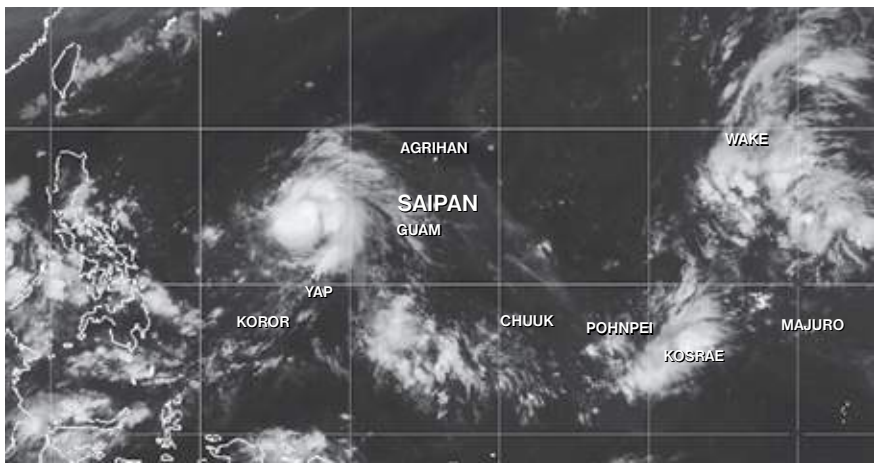
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼76
Majuro	Rain	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲62	▼56
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼44
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼70
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
London	Showers	▲55	▼42
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼47
Miami	Sunny	▲84	▼69
New York	Windy	▲62	▼45
Osaka	Sunny	▲75	▼58
Paris	Showers	▲56	▼39
Pusan	Sunny	▲71	▼58
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼55
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼39
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼57
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼44
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼62
Washington, DC	Windy	▲69	▼48

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from the Central Philippines through a weak circulation centered northwest of Koror at 11N131E to Tropical Storm Megi (15W) centered north of Yap at 13N138E then turns southeastward to end at 2N145E. Megi has maximum sustained winds of 70 mph and is moving west-northwest at 9 mph. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the center north of Yap between 11N and 15N from 136E to 141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found farther south over Yap between 7N and 11N from 138E to 142E. For more information on Tropical Storm Megi, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and JTWC bulletins under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Convergent southwest winds south of the monsoon trough are producing scattered showers south of Koror within 35 miles of a line from 5N132E to 6N137E. Trade winds converging toward the southeastern end of the monsoon trough are triggering scattered showers southwest and south of Chuuk between 3N and 6N from 146E to 152E. A pronounced surface trough reaches northeastward from southwest of Kosrae at 1N161E to northeast of Wake Island at 22N170E. Widely scattered to scattered showers are occurring near the southern end of the trough over Pohnpei and Kosrae within 75 miles of a line from 7N156E to 5N161E to 8N164E and also over Majuro between 6N and 9N from 169E to 172E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found farther north between 10N and 20N from 164E to 174E including Wake Island. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Wake Island at 24N164E. Isolated thunderstorms are present in the vicinity of this feature north of a line from 21N164E to 24N171E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
4:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Tuesday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	5:54 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:03 PM	12:27 AM
Sunday	2:09 PM	1:17 AM
Monday	2:45 PM	2:04 AM
Tuesday	3:20 PM	2:51 AM
Wednesday	3:55 PM	3:37 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
C09316/893	2:45am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/173	7:50am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9316	4:15pm	3:35am+1	3, 6 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday	
9am	Sunday school
10am	Regular worship
6pm	worship
Wednesday	
7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

US dollar keeps falling as investors await Fed action

WASHINGTON (AP)—The dollar keeps falling around the world, tumbling against other major currencies because investors expect the Federal Reserve to pump more money into the economy next month to try to stimulate growth.

The effects can be seen almost everywhere.

Since late summer, when Chairman Ben Bernanke first hinted that the Fed was ready to act, anticipation of the move has rippled across the economy: Stock prices have surged. So have oil prices. Commodities like gold, silver and corn have risen. Treasury yields have slid. Mortgage rates have sunk, too, along with yields on money markets and CD accounts.

The steep decline has even raised worries of a global currency war in which nations would compete to keep their currencies from rising in value as the dollar sags.

On Thursday, the dollar fell to a 15-year-low against the yen in Tokyo, after flirting with a post-World War II bottom. It also touched its lowest level against the euro since January. The dollar has slid more than 10 percent against the euro in the past three months.

What does all this mean for American consumers and businesses?

For one, imports can cost more. So does travel abroad. Goods from U.S. companies become cheaper for foreigners, and oil tends to cost more. Even the likelihood of some new price bubble in investments such as stocks or real estate could rise.

When you total it all up, the U.S. economy is so weak right now that the Fed considers a cheaper dollar to be a good thing. That's especially true when a low dollar is accompanied by super-low interest rates.

Those cheaper rates, on mortgages, corporate debt and other loans, could help rejuvenate the economy. Consumers and businesses are more likely to borrow and spend—at least those who can afford to or who qualify for credit. The idea is that higher spending would course through the economy, boosting corporate revenue, creating jobs and driving down unemployment.

"The weaker dollar should give the United States more growth and more inflation at a time when the country is struggling with low growth and low inflation," said Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics. "It could be just what the doctor ordered."

The Fed is widely expected at its Nov. 2-3 meeting to launch a program to buy more government bonds. By doing so, the Fed would be injecting billions of dollars into the economy.

It's the move that Bernanke signaled in a speech Aug. 27 at an annual Fed conference in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Government to report on $1 trillion-plus deficit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is set to report Friday that the federal budget deficit exceeded $1 trillion for the second straight year, providing critics of government spending with fresh ammunition ahead of the midterm congressional elections.

The Congressional Budget Office is projecting that the deficit for the 2010 budget year that ended Sept. 30 will total $1.29 trillion. That's down by $125 billion from the $1.4 trillion in 2009—the highest deficit on record.

Soaring deficits have become a problem for Democrats in an election year focused on the weak economy.

Republicans have tapped into voter angst over the deficits, using the $814 billion economic stimulus and $700 billion Wall Street bailout to paint President Barack Obama and his party as big spenders.

Democrats say the recession would have been worse if the government didn't step in with those programs to prop up the economy. They also note that most of the bailout, which began during the Bush administration and was supported by many Republicans in Congress, has been repaid.

Both parties have acknowledged that rising deficits will present headaches for policymakers regardless of which party controls Congress after November.

The Obama administration is projecting that the deficit for the 2011 budget year, which began on Oct. 1, will climb to $1.4 trillion. Over the next decade, it will total $8.47 trillion. Deficits of that size will constrain the administration's agenda over the next two years and will certainly be an issue in the 2012 presidential race.

Top economists with the National Association for Business Economics forecast this week that the 2011 deficit will total $1.2 trillion, only slightly better than the administration's estimate. These analysts pinpointed excessive federal debt as their single greatest concern, even more so than high unemployment.

Nation

Mexican lake victim possibly mistaken for other

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The American tourist who reportedly was shot and killed by Mexican pirates on a border lake may have been a victim of mistaken identity, a U.S. consulate official said Thursday.

"I think what you had is two innocent American tourists who mistakenly stumbled into a bad area and were pursued and the shooting occurred," said Brian Quigley, spokesman for the U.S. consulate in Matamoros, across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, Texas.

Quigley was responding to a report by Stratfor, an Austin, Texas-based public policy research group that analyzes the Mexican drug war. The report suggests that David and Tiffany Hartley of McAllen, Texas, may have been mistaken for drug runners and attacked.

Mexico suspended its search for David Hartley indefinitely on Thursday, an official said.

"There is a recess," Ruben Dario Rios Lopez, a spokesman for the state attorney general's office in Tamaulipas, told The Monitor of McAllen in a copyright story in its online edition Thursday. "We are going to look into new strategies between both U.S. and Mexican authorities in order to see what we can do, because up to now we have not been able to recover the body of this person."

Calls by The Associated Press to Rios' office in the Tamaulipas capital, Ciudad Victoria, were not answered Thursday night. An officer who answered the phone at the Tamaulipas state police office in Ciudad Miguel Aleman, near the lake, said he was not allowed to comment. Calls and messages left with Texas Gov. Rick Perry's staff were not returned.

Tiffany Hartley says that on Sept. 30, she and her husband, David, were returning to the United States from Mexico where they went to photograph a historic, half-submerged church.

They were crossing Falcon Lake on Jet Skis when pirates who patrol the Mexican half of the lake opened fire, shooting David in the back of the head. Tiffany Hartley says she barely escaped with her life after vain attempts to save her husband while men on three speedboats pursued them, firing their guns.

Texas officials have warned boaters to stay away from the Mexican side of the lake after several fishermen were robbed earlier this year. Hartley's death was the first violent attack on the lake, which was created by damming a section of the Rio Grande.

The Stratfor report says the Hartleys' truck holding the Jet Skis had Tamaulipas, Mexico, license plates, which may have led pirates or drug gangsters to think they were from a rival gang and were spying on them.

The Hartleys lived in Reynosa, Mexico, a city across the border from McAllen, until recently, when David Hartley's employer, an oil and gas company, decided it was too dangerous for them to live in Mexico.

Tamaulipas state is the center of a violent rivalry between the Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas, a brutal drug gang made up of former Mexican special-forces soldiers. The search for Hartley's body has been repeatedly hampered by threats of an ambush from drug gangs, presumably the Zetas.

AP

In this Oct. 6, 2010, file photo, Tiffany Hartley, left, and family members, lay a wreath near the site where her husband, David Hartley, was shot last month on Falcon Lake in Zapata, Texas.

Soldiers reacted at Fort Hood as if in combat

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)—Unarmed soldiers caught up in a deadly shooting rampage as they prepared to deploy from Fort Hood reacted as though they'd already reached a combat zone, playing dead to avoid gunfire and refusing to leave fallen comrades behind, according to testimony Thursday at a military hearing.

Most took just moments to realize the chaos of gunfire, smoke and a weapon's laser flashing across walls and bodies was not a drill, and their survival instincts and training kicked in.

"I laid back down on the ground and played dead," Spc. Alan Carroll, who was shot several times in the Nov. 5 attack, testified via video link from Kandahar, Afghanistan. "I tried to get up again and was shot again in the leg. I was holding my breath, trying not to move. ... If I was moving, I thought he would come to me."

The Article 32 hearing will determine whether Maj. Nidal Hasan, who has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder, should stand trial. Prosecutors have not said whether they would seek the death penalty.

On the second day of the hearing, several witnesses again said Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, shouted "Allahu Akbar!"—"God is Great!" in Arabic—before unleashing a volley of gunfire in a center where soldiers undergo medical tests before deploying. They testified that Hasan started firing toward a crowded waiting area, then walked around and shot soldiers trying to hide under desks, chairs or tables and only paused to reload.

In the days after last year's shooting, reports emerged that the 40-year-old American-born Muslim had been trying to get out of his pending deployment because he opposed the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Zeigler, who nearly died in the Nov. 5 attack, testified Thursday that he knows soldiers helped him after he was shot once in the head and three other times, then tried to crawl to safety and lost consciousness.

AP

In this courtroom sketch, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, left, attends his Article 32 hearing as Col. James L. Pohl, right, a military judge acting as the investigating officer in the case listens to a defense attorney inside the U.S. Magistrate court Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010 in Fort Hood, Texas.

US urges delay in 'don't ask, don't tell' ruling

WASHINGTON (AP)—After two days of silence, the Obama administration urged a federal judge on Thursday to let the military press on with its "don't ask, don't tell" ban on gays serving openly in the military. Still, President Barack Obama insisted the policy that has divided the nation for two decades "will end on my watch."

The Pentagon said the military "will of course obey the law" and halt enforcement while the case is still in question. But gay rights advocates cautioned gay service members to avoid revealing their sexuality in the meantime.

A federal judge abruptly threw out the Clinton-era ban on Tuesday, setting in motion a legal, political and human-rights back-and-forth that put the administration on the spot just two weeks before crucial midterm elections. Obama has consistently argued against the ban, approved by Congress in 1993. But he says it is up to Congress to repeal it.

The policy, summed up as "don't ask, don't tell," refers to guidance that gay or lesbian Americans can serve in the military but not openly. Their superiors are forbidden to ask about sexual orientation, but service members can be thrown out or denied enlistment if they talk about being gay or let it be known that they engage in homosexual acts.

Obama's Justice Department asked U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips to stay her ruling that overturned the ban while the government prepares a formal appeal. Asking the judge for a response by Monday—"given the urgency and gravity of the issues"—the government said that suddenly ending the ban would be disruptive and "irreparably harm the public interest in a strong and effective military."

Obama, challenged Thursday at a town hall meeting by a Howard University faculty member who questioned his "alleged commitment to equality for all Americans, gay and straight," said his stance has not wavered. He can't end the ban with the stroke of a pen, he said, but "we're going to end this policy."

Even as the administration was arguing to keep "don't ask, don't tell" in place for now, the Pentagon's top lawyers were telling troops that the military intends to comply with the court order lifting the ban.

Col. Dave Lapan, a Pentagon spokesman, told reporters that the Defense Department "will of course obey the law." He said any changes were effective Tuesday when the ruling was first issued.

ACROSS THE NATION

Calif. father to stand trial in 'sexting' case

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A father in California has been ordered to stand trial on assault and other charges for allegedly tying up a man and using a stun gun on him for sending a racy cell phone photo to his 17-year-old daughter. A Riverside County judge ruled Thursday there was sufficient evidence to try 45-year-old William Atwood on charges of making criminal threats, false imprisonment, assault with a stun gun and assault with a deadly weapon. Atwood has pleaded not guilty. The Riverside Press-Enterprise reported that Justin Moore said at a preliminary hearing that Atwood lured him to his home in January.

Denver Zoo hatches 4 Komodo dragons

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Zoo says it's become the only zoo in the world to hatch endangered Komodo dragons for a third time. The zoo said Thursday that in its latest feat, four dragons have hatched and four are still in the incubator. Denver Zoo Curator of Reptiles and Fishes Rick Haeffner says the zoo is only the second one in North America to hatch the dragons this year. The four should be on display in the nursery soon. Komodo dragons are the world's largest species of lizard and can grow to be 10 feet long and more than 250 pounds. They have a vicious bite and have about 60 razor-sharp, serrated teeth up to 1 inch long.

Police: Doughnut thief pees, offers officer sex

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. (AP)—Police say an Oklahoma woman tripled her trouble when she stole a doughnut from someone's truck, peed in a parking lot and offered to perform a sex act on an officer for money. The 27-year-old Tulsa woman was being held Thursday in Washington County Jail on charges of vehicle burglary, trespassing, indecent exposure and soliciting prostitution. Jail records do not show if she has a lawyer. The Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise reports that the truck owner complained to police that the woman stole the doughnut at about 2 a.m. Wednesday. A convenience store clerk asked police to charge the woman because he said she relieved herself outside the store.

Asia

China says backers of Nobel winner support crime

BEIJING (AP)—Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to imprisoned dissident Liu Xiabo encouraged crime in China, the government said Thursday, while telling his supporters to stop interfering in his case.

China has been issuing angry statements and rejecting calls for Liu's release since the Norwegian Nobel Committee honored him Oct. 8 for his more than two decades of advocacy of human rights and peaceful democratic change that started with the demonstrations at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Liu

■■■

BEIJING (AP)—More than 100 Chinese activists have signed and released an open letter asking that Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo be released from prison.

The letter released late Thursday and posted online also asks China's leaders to respond to the peace prize "with realism and reason."

China has responded angrily to the award, calling Liu a criminal.

The literary critic and activist is serving an 11-year sentence for subversion after co-authoring a call for political reform in China.

Since the peace prize was awarded a week ago, a group of Chinese Communist Party elders has also issued a public demand for more freedom of speech in China.

■■■

The 54-year-old literary critic is serving an 11-year prison term after being convicted of inciting subversion for his role in writing an influential 2008 manifesto for political reform.

"Liu Xiaobo is a convicted criminal for violating the laws of China. Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to such a person is equivalent to encouraging crimes in China. It also constitutes a violation of China's judicial sovereignty," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said.

Numerous countries, including the United States, have asked for Liu's release. On Thursday, Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan guardedly said it would be "desirable" for China to free Liu, but stopped short of specifically calling for the imprisoned dissident's release.

"I wonder what their true intention is. Is it because they resent China's development path and hate China's political system?" Ma said at a regular news conference.

He accused the Norwegian Nobel Committee of being biased and said "Western governments had no right to interfere" in China.

Liu's winning of the peace prize has caused a diplomatic rift between China and Norway, even though the Norwegian government is not involved in the selection of the winner.

China has canceled a string of meetings with Norwegian officials, and Oslo has pushed Beijing to lift restrictions imposed on Liu's wife, Liu Xia.

US, reversing course, backs Afghan peace effort

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Obama administration on Thursday endorsed fragile Afghan efforts to negotiate peace with the Taliban, backing off its prior stance that talks with the Taliban were premature until the war is all but won.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who only last month had said it was too soon for high-level reconciliation talks, struck a different chord at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

"Whenever opportunities arise that are worth exploring, I think we ought to take advantage of that," Gates said.

Senior U.S. officials have long said they didn't expect the Taliban to talk peace as long as the militants believed they were winning, and at least some administration officials had been cool to peace feelers put forth by President Hamid Karzai.

The new acceptance of reconciliation could be seen as an admission that the war is going badly. Or it may reflect the view of U.S. military commanders that NATO troops have damaged the insurgency following the surge of more than 30,000 U.S. forces ordered by President Barack Obama.

Some administration officials recently said stepped-up NATO operations, as well as U.S. drone attacks on militants across the border in Pakistan, have shaken the Taliban enough to coax them into negotiations.

Publicizing U.S. support for any peace talks also could be a sign that the administration is looking for ways to demonstrate a commitment to ending the war short of calling home large numbers of troops. The war has claimed the lives of more than 2,000 NATO troops, including at least 1,228 Americans. Gates spoke on a day that eight NATO service members were killed across Afghanistan.

There have been no formal negotiations yet between the Afghan government and the Taliban, only some contacts and signals, according to the Afghan government.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China shuts down 1,600 illegal coal mines

BEIJING (AP)—China has shut down more than 1,600 small, illegal coal mines this year as part of an effort to improve safety standards in a mining industry that is the most dangerous in the world. The state-backed People's Daily newspaper reported Thursday that 1,611 small mines across China with outdated facilities were closed this year, citing the National Energy Bureau. More than 2,600 people died in mining accidents in China last year, though deaths have decreased in recent years as the government increased safety inspections and shut down illegal mines.

Rights groups won't testify to Sri Lanka panel

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Three international rights groups have declined to testify before a government-appointed commission inquiring into Sri Lanka's civil war, saying it lacks independence and has no mandate to investigate alleged war crimes. Human Rights Watch, International Crisis Group and Amnesty International have jointly written to Sri Lanka's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission to decline invitations to testify, a statement said Thursday. The groups contend the commission would not operate independently because its members were appointed by the government; moreover, the body had no real mandate to probe alleged war crimes reported in the last stages of the war.

Report criticizes civilian casualties in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Islamabad and Washington must publicly track civilian deaths from military operations and drone strikes in Pakistan and compensate the families of those killed, a U.S. advocacy group said in a new report. The study by the Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict warned that unless the Pakistani government and military take action, they risk undermining public support for the war against Taliban and al-Qaida militants. It also cautioned the U.S. that failure to provide greater transparency about who is targeted and killed in the growing number of drone strikes in Pakistan's tribal belt could drive more people to join the extremists.

World

Chile miners start new lives, adjust to freedom

COPIAPO, Chile (AP)—The Chilean miners began their unfamiliar new lives as national heroes Thursday and got a taste of what awaits them outside the hospital doors—a deluge of TV producers, writers and even soccer teams all desperate for a piece of their story.

A day after their epic rescue, still wearing the oddly fashionable sunglasses that protected them from the bright light when they were hoisted from 2,000 feet underground, the men posed in hospital bathrobes for a group photo with President Sebastian Pinera.

Unity helped the men, known as "los 33," survive for 69 days underground, including more than two weeks when no one knew whether they were alive.

But the moment they walk out the hospital doors, they'll go beyond the reach of a government operation that has cared for, fed and protected them in a carefully coordinated campaign to ensure each of them would be in top condition.

"Now they're going to have to find their equilibrium and take care of themselves," the hospital chaplain, the Rev. Luis Lopez, told The Associated Press.

AP

In this photo released by the Chilean Government, the last miner to be rescued, Luis Urzua, left, shakes hands with Chile's President Sebastian Pinera after being freed from the collapsed San Jose gold and copper mine where he had been trapped with 32 other miners for over two months near Copiapo, Chile, Wednesday Oct. 13, 2010.

They got quite the preview Thursday of what lies ahead. On their first full day of fresh air, the miners were probably the 33 most in-demand people on the planet.

A Greek mining company wants to bring them to the sunny Aegean islands, competing with rainy Chiloe in Chile's southern archipelago, whose tourism bureau wants them to stay for a week.

Soccer teams in Madrid, Manchester and Buenos Aires want them in their stadiums. Bolivia's president wants them at his palace. TV host Don Francisco wants them all on his popular "Sabado Gigante" show in Miami.

Hearing that miner Edison Pena jogged regularly in the tunnels below the collapsed rock, the New York City marathon invited him to participate in next month's race.

What about a reality show? Some other kind of TV work? Why not, said television writer-producer and Oscar nominee Lionel Chetwynd, who said he expected projects were being pitched around Hollywood within hours of the rescue.

Ahmadinejad taunts Israel from border with Lebanon

BINT JBEIL, Lebanon (AP)—Iran's president taunted archenemy Israel on Thursday from just across the tense border in Lebanon, rallying tens of thousands of Hezbollah supporters as Israeli attack helicopters buzzed in the skies nearby.

Ahmadinejad

"The world should know that the Zionists will perish," declared Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, echoing previous verbal attacks in which he has said Israel should be wiped off the map.

"Occupied Palestine will be liberated from the filth of occupation by the strength of resistance and through the faith of the resistance," the Iranian leader vowed as cheers went up from the crowd, waving a sea of Lebanese, Iranian and Hezbollah flags.

The fiery speech was delivered in the border village of Bint Jbeil, which was nearly destroyed by Israeli bombs in the 2006 war with Hezbollah and rebuilt with the help of Iranian cash. A stronghold of the Shiite militant group, Ahmadinejad's visit to the southern Lebanese area was denounced by Washington and Israel as a provocation.

The Iranian president's first state visit to Lebanon, it was turned into a show of strength by Hezbollah, Iran's close ally in Lebanon, which shares power in a fragile unity government with a Western-backed coalition.

Hezbollah organized a rapturous welcome Wednesday in Beirut's streets, which were bedecked with billboards and signs bearing photos of Ahmadinejad.

WORLD BRIEFS

US military says 77,000 Iraqis killed over 5 years

BAGHDAD (AP)—A new U.S. military tally puts the death toll of Iraqi civilians and security forces in the bloodiest years of the war thousands below Iraqi government figures. The little-noticed body count is the most extensive data on Iraqi war casualties ever released by the American military. It tallied deaths of almost 77,000 Iraqis between January 2004 and August 2008—the darkest chapter of Iraq's sectarian warfare and the U.S. troop surge to quell it. But the tally falls short of the estimated 85,694 deaths of civilians and security officials between January 2004 to Oct. 31, 2008, as counted last year by the Iraqi Human Rights Ministry.

Tropical Storm Paula hits Cuban capital

HAVANA (AP)—Tropical Storm Paula brought winds and heavy rain to the Cuban capital on Thursday, turning some low lying streets into shallow rivers, bending palm trees and sending waves crashing against the city's famed Malecon sea wall, though there were no reports of serious damage. With the storm losing steam by the hour, Cuban officials said they were optimistic it would not bring a repeat of the devastation wrought by three monster storms that hit in 2008. The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said Paula had maximum sustained winds of 55 mph (90 kph) and its core was about 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of Havana, on a course that would take it near the coastal resort area of Varadero.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, October 16, 2010

RP leader, bishops discuss contraceptives

JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president, aiming to avoid a head-on collision with the influential Roman Catholic Church, explained his backing for artificial birth control and received an assurance from bishops that he won't be excommunicated, his spokesman said Tuesday.

Public debate over family planning has simmered again in this predominantly Catholic country after President Benigno Aquino III recently expressed support for the right to contraception. A church official threatened to launch civil disobedience protests, and reports circulated that the bishops might expel Aquino from the church.

On Monday, Aquino sat with the bishops over lunch at the presidential palace. The discussion was "very pleasant" with both sides agreeing to continue the dialogue, presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda told reporters Tuesday.

It was not clear that any differences were immediately settled but the four bishops, led by Nereo Odchimar, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, denied there was any plan to excommunicate Aquino, Lacierda said.

Aquino "explained his position on responsible parenthood and (that) he's not siding with any method," Lacierda said.

The church's opposition to government funding for contraceptives was not discussed, Lacierda said, but he expressed relief that "lines are now open."

Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, who was at the meeting, said no debate took place on contentious issues with both sides exchanging ideas "in an atmosphere of trust-building" and backing the need for strengthening public education on "responsible parenthood."

Aside from birth control, the talks touched on the economy and poverty, she said.

Officials refused to discuss further details of the meeting.

The issue of artificial contraception—which is opposed by the Vatican—is a delicate topic in Philippine politics. Elected officials tend to avoid it, even though Philippine law is generally considered to protect a couple's right to use birth control.

President Benigno Aquino III, left, gives a health card to a recipient during the launching of the nationwide registration for health card Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010 in one of Manila's depressed area of Baseco, Philippines. President Aquino's expression of support for the right to contraception had angered bishops and renewed church attacks on a reproductive health bill that calls for contraceptives to be provided in government hospitals and sex education to be taught in public schools. AP

Philippine church officials have argued that contraception is a type of abortion, which is banned by the country's 1987 constitution.

Aquino broke that customary silence last month during a forum with Filipino Americans while on a trip to the U.S., where he suggested his administration would be willing to distribute contraceptives to poor couples who couldn't afford them.

Church leaders lashed out at Aquino, expressing disappointment and urging him to emulate his mother, pro-democracy icon and late President Corazon Aquino, who backed the church's stance.

Proponents of contraception, however, have argued that rapid population growth and high fertility rates worsen the Philippines' crushing poverty.

In a rare act of defiance, a prominent Manila historian and tour guide disrupted Mass at the capital's main cathedral two weeks ago to protest the clergy's opposition to contraception. Carlos Celdran was arrested and freed a day later on 6,000 peso ($138) bail.

The church has proven its ability to successfully intercede in politics. The bishops mobilized protests that toppled late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and President Joseph Estrada in 2001 over alleged corruption.

In recent years, the church has spearheaded opposition to a reproductive health bill that calls for contraceptives to be provided in government hospitals and sex education to be taught in public schools. The bill is pending in the House of Representatives.

@hair.comb SALON FOR MEN & WOMEN

Bringing out the beauty within

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just because the economy is going on a downward spiral doesn't mean your looks should be in the same pattern. Looking good need not be an extravagance amid the crisis, thanks to @hair.comb.

The modest hair and beauty salon behind DFS Galleria in Garapan just reopened in September under new management.

The new management of @hair.comb guarantees that the salon's makeover comes with the enhancement of its services, facilities, and products.

@hair.comb indulges its customers from the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with a wide range of hair care services and beauty treatments that the new management has kept well within anyone's budget.

Patrons particularly rave about the salon's affordable foot spa, manicure and pedicure, hair spa, hair extension, and facial treatment.

Only recently, @hair.comb has introduced an additional service called Hair Volume. This hair straightening treatment is innovative as it gives body and volume to a person's crowning glory.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The facade of @hair.comb Salon for Men & Women. Located behind DFS Galleria in Garapan, @hair.comb just reopened in September under new management. Inset, Evelyn Meting, left, and Cora Belacora, right, are photographed here with a friend and client. Meting and Belacora are the overall beauticians at @hair.comb.

The highly skilled and very sociable double act of Cora Belacora and Evelyn Meting serves as the salon's overall beauticians. The duo tends to @hair.comb's clientele, providing them with the best salon experience.

Having established itself, @hair.comb has and still continues to accumulate a throng of loyal followers through the years.

In fact, celebrated Filipino fashion designer and *Magkaribal* actor Rene Salud graced the salon with his presence earlier this month during his most recent Saipan trip.

Plans to invite Salud on Saipan to conduct training for @hair.comb are also well on the way.

Salon promos

With its recent reopening, @hair.comb brings to the community its Tag-A-Friend promotion throughout the month of October.

By bringing a friend who avails of any salon service on your visit at @hair.comb, a customer can take advantage of a 30-percent discount on any service or treatment.

@hair.comb also offers daily salon service specials that are very reasonably priced.

The salon also gives discounted rates for local students who present their IDs when they visit the salon.

"Experience our services @hair.comb and we promise you that you will always come back," assures @hair.comb.

Bring out the beauty in you @hair.comb. For appointments, visit @hair.comb located behind DFS Galleria in Garapan or call 233-4247.

Biggest ever: P24-B tax case filed vs Shell

By NIKKO DIZON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Bureau of Customs Thursday filed with the justice department a P24.5-billion complaint against the local unit of oil giant Royal Dutch Shell, accusing the company of evading import duties and taxes in what could be the country's biggest smuggling case.

"This criminal complaint should prove to everyone that President Aquino's campaign against smuggling, corruption and other economic crimes respects no sacred cows," Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez said at a press conference in the justice department.

Edgardo Chua, the chair of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., said his company had "never, ever engaged in smuggling. That's against our business principles."

In its 18-page complaint backed by 17 brown folders of invoices and other documents, the customs bureau accused Pilipinas Shell of "intentional misclassification and misdeclaration" of its various petroleum imports from 2004 to 2009 to avoid the payment of excise duties and value-added taxes (VAT).

In what Alvarez described as the biggest claim ever against a suspected smuggler, the government is seeking the payment of P24.5 billion in unpaid taxes and additional penalties.

'Totally ridiculous'

Still, Chua belittled the government case. "We are one of the biggest taxpayers in the country. This charge is totally, totally, shall we say, ridiculous," he said, adding the company has yet to see the complaint.

Named respondents in the complaint were Nigel Avila, Pilipinas Shell country tax manager; Brian Khriz Acosta, Carolyn Francisco, Ma. Cristina Rago, and Janice de los Reyes, Pilipinas Shell employees who signed the import entries; customs brokers Diosdado Bagon, Jorge Pascual Jr., and Mary Grace Maleon; and other John and Jane Does.

Aquino slams high court

» Warns SC ruling could lead to gov't chaos

By NORMAN BORDADORA, NIKKO DIZON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines— Stung by the Supreme Court order stopping his removal of a "midnight appointee" of his predecessor, President Benigno Aquino III Thursday accused the tribunal of blocking his program of reform.

Mr. Aquino used strong words in assailing the high court for granting the petition of Bai Omera Dianalan-Lucman of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), which sought a stop to the implementation of his Executive Order No. 2 rescinding the last-minute appointments of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"This order will embolden hundreds of similarly situated appointees of the past administration who had already been replaced, resigned or recalled, to demand that they be reinstated or retained. And having returned to their obtained posts, what can we expect from people who accepted illegal appointments?" he added.

Mr. Aquino said the status quo ante (SQA) order issued by the high court on Wednesday "could precipitate a clash with another separate, coequal branch of government."

"The potential result of this [order] will be chaos and paralysis in the executive branch of government, as the legitimacy of officials appointed to replace those already removed will be cast in doubt," he said, reading from a prepared statement at a briefing in Malacañang.

Covers only 1 petition

In response, Jose Midas Marquez, spokesperson of the high court, said it remained an institution governed by law and "not by passing emotions and daily polls."

"The fact that it covers only the Lucman petition shows that it is a class of its own and it cannot be invoked as a blanket remedy for all the so-called midnight appointees," he said.

Marquez, who is also the court administrator, defended the SQA order on Lucman's petition.

"Judicial review, which includes the power to issue TROs (temporary restraining orders) and SQA orders, is not a privilege but a duty imposed by the Constitution on the court. It cannot shirk this duty," he said in a text message.

Marquez said the SQA order was issued "after a judicious review" of the Lucman case.

Marquez further said, "Rest assured that we have a [Supreme Court] which is not governed by passing emotions and daily polls, but by the rule of law, serving not the special interest of the few, but the best interest of all, committed not to self-preservation but to the preservation of those great constitutional principles bequeathed by history."

5th case filed

The President said the removal of Arroyo's purported midnight appointees had allowed for the appointment of new officials who helped uncover the previous administration's questionable deals.

"I call upon the Supreme Court to exercise judicial prudence at a time when the Filipino people deserve confidence-building measures from all our institutions rather than actions that might diminish this confidence," he said.

As though on cue, Quezon City Prosecutor Dindo Venturanza filed Thursday afternoon a 50-page petition against EO 2 with the Supreme Court.

Venturanza is the fifth purported midnight appointee to seek a TRO on Mr. Aquino's order.

The others with similar petitions are Cheloy Velicaria-Garafil, counsel at the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG); Eddie Tamondong, director of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Administration; and Jose Arturo de Castro, assistant justice secretary.

Named as respondents in Venturanza's petition were Mr. Aquino, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, Prosecutor General Claro Arellano and Assistant State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon.

Apart from a TRO, Venturanza sought an SQA order on EO 2, as well as the conduct of oral arguments on its validity.

He questioned De Lima's order replacing him and appointing Fadullon as the officer in charge of the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office on the strength of EO 2.

Urgent motion by OSG

Speaking with reporters after Mr. Aquino's briefing, De Lima said the OSG was preparing an urgent motion to lift the high court's order on Lucman's petition.

"The view of the executive is that the reform agenda of this administration might be derailed if there is such an action from a coequal branch," De Lima said.

Asked about the legal basis of Malacañang's position, Mr. Aquino said his administration had sufficient evidence that those covered by EO 2 were appointed in violation of the constitutional ban on presidential appointments two months before a presidential election and until the end of the incumbent's term.

He also said the high court should examine the effects of its order on Lucman's petition.

"Our democracy was built on the constitutional principle of the separation of powers; hence, there are three branches of government. We therefore appeal, as a coequal branch of government, for the Supreme Court to consider the implications of its order," he said.

The President said the Supreme Court's order stopping the House of Representatives from continuing with its impeachment proceedings against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez tested "the limits of its constitutional authority."

"We kept our silence" on that issue, he said, but warned that the SQA order on Lucman's petition "could precipitate a clash with another separate, coequal branch of government."

Asked if the fact that almost all the members of the high court were Arroyo appointees could have been a factor in its decision on Lucman's case, Mr. Aquino said: "I'd rather maintain the view that I hold them with respect and I expect them to do what is right for the people."

Another case pending before the high court is the validity of Mr. Aquino's creation of a truth commission that will look into the alleged corruption of the Arroyo administration.

Contrary to tradition, the President was sworn into office by Senior Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales.

He had contested Arroyo's May 17 appointment of Chief Justice Renato Corona, arguing that it was made within the prohibitive period.

The Supreme Court has upheld Corona's appointment as Chief Justice, and Mr. Aquino has since recognized him as such.

'Judicial blackmail'?

The last time the executive and judicial branches appeared at loggerheads was when Marquez expressed the judiciary's disappointment after the budget department rejected the magistrates' proposed P27.1-billion budget for 2011, or nearly double the P14.3 billion allocated by Malacañang.

But Sen. Francis Escudero Thursday dismissed talk that the high court was engaging in "judicial blackmail."

"It is difficult to make such an accusation as it would undermine the rule of law and the legal fabric that binds our country and people together. That is how they interpret the law whether we agree or not," Escudero said.

Still, Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the high court was waging war on two fronts.

Waging war on 2 fronts

"First it went against Congress. Now it is going against the executive department. History has taught us that to wage war on two fronts can only lead to defeat. The Supreme Court will do well to learn from the lessons of history and rethink its current positioning," Pangilinan said in a text message.

He decried what he called the high court's "newfound propensity to step beyond its jurisdiction." ***(With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.)***

SAVE THE DOLPHINS
Environmental activists, wearing dolphin costumes, display protest messages during a rally at the Japanese Embassy in Manila, Philippines Thursday Oct. 14, 2010 to protest the alleged massive slaughter of dolphins in Taiji, Japan. The protest was to coincide with International Japan Dolphin Day mass action from all over the world to bring to attention the alleged massive slaughter of the highly intelligent and social animal.

AP

Lions Club medical mission set for Nov. 13

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lions Club International District 204 Region 2, in collaboration with Region 1, will conduct a medical mission on Saipan on Nov. 13 at the Civic Center basketball court in Susupe.

Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.3 million members around the world.

Region 2 is made up of the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, and the Saipan Unity Lions Club, while Region 1 consists of the Guam Lions Clubs.

Region secretary Paul Madriaga said the mission will focus on vision screening, hearing testing, blood pressure, and blood sugar testing.

"Lions Club International is known for its sight prevention program in the United States and humanitarian services worldwide and Saipan Lions would like to bring that to CNMI community," he said.

Madriaga told *Saipan Tribune* that the Local Lions are involved with various beautification programs such as trash collection, basketball court renovation, pavilion painting, and tree planting.

Although the local Lions have conducted health awareness programs in the past, Madriaga said this medical mission would be the onset of the major health program they will provide to the community.

Upon arrival of the local Lions' Guam counterparts, Madriaga said they will hold a motorcade from the airport down to Middle Road, pass through Garapan on Beach Road, then proceed to the Civic Center.

The Guam District officers will be led by district governor Romeo Angel of Guam Spirit Lions Club, PDG Goring Duenas of Guam Galaide Lions Club, PDG Melen Ruiz of Guamerica Lions Club, 2VDG Rey Acierto of Asia Pacific Lions Club, and Guam Marianas Lions officers.

Region 2 officers are 1VDG Pastor Gagaring, zone chairman Joe Digno, treasurer Ladyvir Canape of Saipan Unity Lions Club, region chairman Danny Domingo, Madriaga, and safety officer Tony Soriano from Saipan Marianas Lions Club.

They will be joined by Saipan Fil-Am Lions officers Jess Delos Santos and Mario Mayuga.

For more information on the medical mission or to get involved with the Lions Club, contact Jess Delos Santos of Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club at 287-8880; Tony Soriano of Saipan Marianas Lions Club at 287-7917; or Ladyvir Canape of Saipan Unity Lions Club at 483-2118.

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Judge to make ruling despite Aquino's amnesty decree

By TINA SANTOS,
GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY NQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The promulgation of the decision on the coup d'etat case against detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and other rebel soldiers involved in the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny will proceed as scheduled on Oct. 28 despite President Benigno Aquino III's amnesty proclamation.

This was disclosed Thursday by members of the staff of Judge Oscar Pimentel of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 in the course of refusing a request from the Inquirer for an interview with the judge on the implication of Presidential Proclamation No. 50 on the case.

"He will not comment on the issue; maybe [he will] after Oct. 28," the staff members said, adding that there had been no directive to cancel or change the date set for the promulgation.

"It will push through. The parties have also not submitted any motions to the court [in connection with the case]," they said.

Moot and academic

Asked to comment on the amnesty proclamation, Public Attorneys Office chief Persida Acosta said it would render the court's verdict moot and academic once it is concurred in by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Acosta said the defense panel could file a motion to suspend or defer the promulgation pending Congress' concurrence in the amnesty proclamation.

"This will also give the judge a chance to give the President's decision departmental and judicial courtesy," she said.

But defense lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr., who represents Navy Lieutenants Eugene Gonzalez, Andy Torrato and Manuel Cabochan, among others, said he saw no problem should the promulgation push through.

"The accused actually want the promulgation to happen because they are confident of acquittal," Francisco said.

He added: "Unknown to many, the grant of amnesty is not automatic. There are certain proceedings for that. Those whom President Aquino said were covered by the amnesty should still have to apply for it at the Department of National Defense ... It will take time; I think the promulgation will come even before the entire amnesty proceedings happen."

'In good taste'

Sen. Franklin Drilon called on Judge Pimentel to "respect" Malacañang and Congress by deferring the promulgation, saying that doing so would "allow Congress time to work on the amnesty and concur in or reject [it]."

"I think it will be in good taste for the judiciary to defer action on this and give due deference to the President and Congress ..." Drilon said at a press conference.

The senator pointed out that granting amnesty was a political act, and that whether the court would acquit or convict Trillanes was irrelevant and a separate matter.

And even if Trillanes is found guilty by the court, the grant of amnesty will render the verdict moot, Drilon said, adding:

"The moment the amnesty [proclamation] is approved and the moment those charged have applied and their applications have been accepted, they can no longer be convicted.

Canceling out each other

"Amnesty has the effect of extinguishing criminal liability. Even assuming that they are convicted, the conviction is not final and, therefore, amnesty will make the conviction academic."

And even if the court hands down a guilty verdict, the penalty of absolute ban from public office will not stick because Trillanes can file a motion for reconsideration (MR), according to Sen. Francis Escudero.

"An MR will not make the verdict final and, therefore, the amnesty will still be effective ... It just doesn't look good that coequal branches of government will cancel out each other," Escudero said in a phone interview.

Occasion for review

The Senate is to hold its first hearing on Proclamation No. 50 on Oct. 18.

Drilon said it would give senators the opportunity to review some of the provisions in the proclamation: "For example, why are officers not allowed to go back to active service whereas ordinary soldiers are? How many will be entitled to [reinstatement]? Are any of those charged in the previous coup d'etat cases disqualified?"

He said he was among the 17 senators who signed the resolution calling for the grant of amnesty to Trillanes, "but we would like to find out what are the parameters of this amnesty and, in the past, amnesty proclamations were subject to hearings."

"I have to cast a vote, and I want to cast a vote on educated information. I don't think the Senate should be a stamping pad of Malacañang," Drilon said.

He also denied that the President and Congress would be interfering in the judicial process by granting Trillanes amnesty even if the court had yet to arrive at a decision on the latter's case.

RESCUE EXERCISE AP

Members of the Philippine Coast Guard are reflected on a pool of water as they do their exercise during a preparedness training Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010 in Manila, Philippines. The Coast Guard conducted the training together with members of the local government units to be prepared to any eventualities.

TAKE CHARGE

Tips for a budget friendly family summer vacation

Q: Summer's here and my kids are already looking forward to out-of-town trips and activities they can do. It used to be that money was not a problem and we would always travel to another country for a short break during the summer. We also always enrolled the kids in summer workshops. But now I have to be realistic and cut down on expenses due to a slowdown in my business. Any tips on how we can have a great summer but still within budget? - Mario

A: Summer is indeed the time to have fun outdoors with the family. The kids are on school break, and both parents and schoolchildren need not worry about homework, waking up early for the school bus, and reviewing for exams and quizzes. It is also nice to go to a place where the air is cooler to take a break from the intense summer heat in the city.

But though budget is a concern, it should not limit you from planning a wonderful summer vacation with the family. There are many things you can do while still on a budget—and you'll have fun while at it.

Below are our tips on how you can have that budget-friendly summer vacation:

1. Figure out how much your budget is. This is a must. To plan out a budget-friendly vacation, you need to know how much your budget is. Ideally, you should have already built up some savings for this summer vacation. Look at your savings, incoming income, and expenses. See how much you can set aside for a summer bonding activity with the family.

2. Ask your family what they want to do. This will help you narrow down your choices as to activities. The kids may like to go swimming or fishing or visit the zoo. Your wife may want to go somewhere you haven't gone to yet.

3. Do your research. Based on the activities they want to do, ask your friends for ideas on where to go. Surf the Internet for places to go to where you can do what your family wants to do. Canvas for prices for accommodations if needed. You might want to consider going to places nearer to your residence to save on travel cost. For instance, for swimming, try the beaches in Batangas, if you live in Metro Manila, instead of Cebu or Palawan. There are also a lot of low-cost air fares being offered now.

4. Consider going with other families together. Make a road trip with close friends and their families. Not only will you get to enjoy bonding together, this will bring down cost too, as you can negotiate for lower hotel rates.

5. Try the un-tourist-y places. People will flock to popular places like Boracay and Baguio. There are other places you can go to where the crowd may not be as thick and where prices are cheaper (for instance, Dumaguete, San Fabian in Pangasinan).

6. Cut down the number of days. Instead of a weekend, how about going on a day trip instead? Some day trips you can schedule are to the Pahiyas Festival in Quezon, to Pampanga for a food trip, to Subic for the zoo or beach, or to Tagaytay for a picnic.

7. Visit family or friends. Take up your cousin's long-standing invitation to visit the province and bring the family along. This will help you save on accommodation cost.

8. Find out what you can do where you are. Look for activities in your area which you can do with your kids over weekends. Maybe there's a pottery workshop you can take part in, or dad/mom-and-me swimming lessons. Have a picnic at a nearby park. Kids would love the idea of doing something new with their parents even if that means staying put in the city.

9. Check out what your credit card offers. You may be entitled to discounts in hotel accommodations in a resort, or tickets to a movie. Look at the website of your credit card company for information, or flyers that come with your bill.

10. Volunteer and help others. One activity that may not cost much but will give your kids a great experience is volunteering. Check out how you can help build homes through Gawad Kalinga or Habitat for Humanity. You get to go outdoors and help other people, too.

11. Ask your children's school for a list of summer classes. Schools may offer summer workshops at a cheaper rate as compared to those offered outside. Some schools offer swimming, taekwondo, art, and creative writing classes.

12. Love anything free. Check out the newspaper for a list of free events in your area, from mall tours of recording artists to free concerts and plays at the park.

13. Have a stay-cation. This means staying at home, but going on vacation mode. Plan for a "camping" weekend—put up a tent in the backyard and grill barbeque outdoors. Have games. Sing campfire songs. Young kids will love this and remember it as it will be different. Or you can stay indoors and have a DVD marathon the whole day, pizza and pasta, and karaoke night.

14. Visit museums. You can spend a day visiting several museums in the city and cap this with a dinner at a family restaurant.

15. Have a family project at home. Organize the family photos and do scrapbooking. Make a music video showing your kids' baby photos. Build a stool or shelf with your son. These things do not cost an arm and a leg yet allow you to have quality time with your family.

As you can see, you can have a fun vacation even without your usual big budget. Just be creative. It's the time together you spend as a family that counts. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Maharlika — PinoyStyle

Why Mike is always on his toes

By MARINEL R. CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"Imbestigador" keeps him on his toes, says Mike Enriquez, host of the fast-paced public service show.

"The average age of our staff is between 20 and 35 years old. All of them are able-bodied and quick on their feet—they need to be. Kapag takbuhan at putukan na, if you're not fast and fit enough, you'll be left behind," Enriquez told Inquirer Entertainment during a recent visit to his office at the GMA 7 compound in Quezon City.

"I work out at least three times a week and pump myself with vitamins. I also watch what I eat," he said.

Ultimate high

Curiously, the multiaward-winning broadcast journalist finds "Imbestigador"—known for penetrating vice dens and joining police raids—a fun program. "Men love playing cowboys and Indians. There's serious and dangerous work here and we crave for it," he explained. "While waiting for the team leader's go-signal during a raid, you can feel your adrenaline about to overflow. It's not work but fun. There's a certain high. The ultimate high, however, is when you see the culprit being led away in handcuffs."

Aside from the action scenes, the show has become famous for Enriquez's parting shot to criminals after every episode: "Hindi namin kayo tatantanan."

The host, however, refuses to take credit for the show's popularity. "I'm not playing cute by saying the success of 'Imbestigador' is anchored on its three teams—the hard work, courage and commitment of the teams," said Enriquez, who also anchors the prime time news program "24 Oras."

The risks shared by "Imbestigador" teams bind them together. "We go through dangerous situations together. It's not surprising if some of us end up being kumpare and kumare," said Enriquez. "That's expected. That's the Filipino way."

Can you tell us about big-time criminals who were caught through "Imbestigador"?

Enriquez

We had a lot. I remember the kidnapping incident in Mindoro. We were able to rescue a number of kids there. That was a really well-entrenched syndicate. We were racing against time. We had to complete the operation fast for fear that NPA rebels would think we're operating against them. We also had a lot of drug-related cases. One of the most memorable was the policeman who was caught on camera doing "shabu," while in uniform and on duty.

Have you had incredible tips that yielded big results?

Our sources of information are usually the people who are engaged in the activity na pinapasok namin. The other source is law enforcement agencies. We never apprehend—in spite of the image of "Imbestigador" na puro raid and entrapment. We are not law enforcers. We merely expose. You will never see a member of the team handcuffing anyone or pointing a gun at anyone. The producers don't want me to be seen holding a firearm.

What is seen every Saturday is not the only thing that "Imbestigador" does. We have two action centers, one for TV and another for radio. On a daily basis, you have a stream of people who go there for different problems. Every year we have a get-together with the public attorney's office, the DSWD, NSO, GSIS and similar agencies. This is a sad commentary on the state of governance. The cases brought to us should have been given to the barangays or the courts. I'd like to think it's because people know that, at the very least, we will listen.

Does it bother you that some viewers find your delivery of news more hilarious than serious?

I know for a fact that some media critics don't like it at all. They are entitled to their opinion. All I know is that people don't watch "24 Oras" because they like my voice or because they're on the lookout for how Mel's (Tiangco) hair would look like. They watch it because they find it credible. I'm not a Dingdong Dantes or a Richard Gutierrez—I never will be. If you have a choice, which you do in television, you will not watch me for more than 10 minutes—but people do. "24 Oras" is the leading prime-time newscast in the country.

As a former DJ, was it difficult for you to gain mileage from a mass audience?

There were only two FM radio stations then. You have to be a jack of all trades to last on the job. You have to be good both in English and Filipino. They used to change format overnight. That's how we earned our chops in those days. I was the youngest when I started working. There was a time when I was on board from 5 a.m. to 3 p.m. There were three or four guys who were supposed to come after me but didn't show up. Ang tawag namin doon binabagoong ka because by the time you finish, you already smell like fish paste. They never heard me complain. I told myself that by the end of my extended time slot, I should sound exactly like I did when I started—fresh and vibrant.

If your life would be turned into a movie, who would you want to play the role?

What for? It's the stories we air at 6:30 p.m. that's more important. We're not here for ourselves—

although that's what people would like to believe about us. Rather than a story about me, just give me private downtime with my loved ones.

How do you keep fit?

I've become conscious of my weight since I was diagnosed with diabetes. I spend time at the gym from 45 minutes to an hour each day for at least three times a week. When I travel, I make it a point to stay in a hotel that has a gym. Or those that have jogging paths. I avoid eating pork and beef. I go for chicken, fish and veggies. I prefer brown rice to white. I don't take sugar.

I played golf a lot when I was still with RMN (formerly Radio Mindanao Network). My wife used to be a golf widow. Which means I'm not there when she wakes up in the morning because I'm already at the golf course before the sun is up. I used to do that so I'd have enough time to play before I go to work at 10 a.m.

What's your take on people who impersonate you?

I'm happy. Mang Enriquez has interviewed me twice. He used to be a props man. On an ordinary day you will see him sitting along with the other props people. Now he is managed by the GMA Artist Center. Ang lakas na rumaket no'n. He even has a big billboard along C5. He's making money off me and I'm very happy for him.

You've made the expression "excuse me po" quite popular.

It's not something planned. I sometimes get scolded when I cough on air. Oras kasi ng gutom 'yon so I sometimes ask someone to buy me peanuts—pantawid-gutom. Minsan nasasamid ako. I don't mind that it has become a common expression. Bawal sa amin ang mainis.

People like me don't have a choice. Work takes us everywhere. I just arrived from Singapore on Sept. 23, the day of the hostage-taking in Manila. My producer and I talked about a possible remote live feed from Luneta. I had no inkling that at the end of the day eight people would die. I'd like to think hindi ito nasayang because organizations like us were forced to take a look at ourselves and come out—hopefully—improved and better-prepared in case something similar to it happens again.

"Imbestigador," now on its 10th year, airs Saturday nights after "Kapuso Mo Jessica Soho."

'Batibot' returns after 2 decades

By MARINEL R. CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Kapatid network recently inked a co-production deal with the Philippine Children's Television Foundation Inc. (PCTVF), which created the show in the '80s to supplement the education of preschool children and introduce them to local culture and heritage.

"Under the agreement, TV5 was granted broadcast and line production rights to air the show," TV5 said in a statement sent to Inquirer Entertainment on Wednesday.

Bodjie Pascua, the show's resident storyteller, is a theater and film actor. Sienna Olaso, who played everybody's big sister, is now director for entertainment and marketing of the Araneta Coliseum.

"This is something that today's youth needs," said Olaso. "Socio-cultural values like pagmamano and the use of 'po' and 'opo' should be taught constantly."

Olaso said the show's production team is "very open" to using modern means of teaching. "Now, we can make use of animation. We want to adapt to the demands of today's kids. I remember how extremely careful we were before because the attention span of kids were so short, paano pa kaya ngayon?"

Sadly, the show's main muppets, Pong Pagong and Kiko Matsing, will not be seen in the new season due to licensing issues between PCTVF and Sesame Workshop, which co-produced "Batibot" until 1989.

Pong is the baseball cap-wearing clumsy turtle, while Kiko is a brown monkey inspired by Oscar the Grouch in "Sesame Street."

"Some characters like (the forgetful fortune-teller) Manang Bola will still be around. We will also introduce new ones," said TV5 executive vice president and COO Bobby Barriero at a recent media gathering in Mandaluyong City. "The new season will make use of virtual sets and artworks made by kids as backdrop. The teaching method will be different but will still be as interesting as before."

Other popular human characters were Ate Isay (Isay Alvarez-Seña), Kuya Mario (Junix Inocian), Kuya Pilo (Teofilo Pili), and Kuya Ching (Ching Arellano), the resident jeepney driver.

Twenty-two years after the show went off the air, Seña said people still call her Ate Isay. "It's about time that the show is revived. It will definitely benefit the new generation of kids," Seña said.

Pong Pagong

Maharlika – Opinyon

Hellfire

Jovich Limpiada said last Friday I may have done Juan Ponce Enrile and Joker Arroyo an injustice when I said in a column that they threatened the media with hellfire.

"What Enrile said was that if media people cannot abide by their own rules—the rules of engagement and code of ethics that journalists adhere to—then it is incumbent upon the State to act by crafting legislation that would make everyone, including media, conduct themselves in a fashion that would allow government to act swiftly and decisively in the face of similar crisis situations.

"As a lawyer, Enrile knows the Constitution and it would be the last thing on his mind to impose any prior restraint on media or allow any infringement on press freedom in the country…. What De Quiros did was to jump to conclusions on the basis of limited information."

Not really.

I don't know how old Limpiada is. I myself am old enough to remember that as a lawyer Enrile constructed the legal edifice of martial law that not only infringed on press freedom but scuttled it. As a lawyer he lent legal substance to the martial law proposition that the media had been remiss in their duty to apprise the world of the truth, being tremendously negativistic, which was thenceforth to be corrected by their being made to subscribe to "development journalism," which would tell only good news. Most journalists lost their jobs that way. Many others lost their skills that way, from not being able to practice them for 14 years. Some others lost their lives that way, from insisting on telling the truth as they saw it from the hills or the underground.

So Limpiada will forgive me when, each time I hear Enrile proposing to help journalists live up to their calling, I see only hellfire.

Just as well, Joker Arroyo has been one of the legislators eager to pass a law that would compel media to print or air their defense every time they are panned by media. That is of course the right of reply bill, which has been opposed by every self-respecting journalist, local or foreign, for being a bloody atrocity. Which it is. By crowding out legitimate news—there will be precious little space for it in newspapers and radio/TV with every Tom, Dick and Joker answering a slight, real or imagined—the right of reply effectively effects censorship. That is quite apart from the fact that it seizes editorial judgment from the editors and reposes it among illiterates, also called politicians. That is quite apart from the horror that it poses torments for readers and listeners, not unlike, well, hellfire.

So Limpiada will forgive me when, each time Joker proposes to teach journalists a lesson or two, I see only a joke.

That's the reason I vehemently protest the IIRC's inclusion of two media people among those it means to file administrative, if not indeed criminal, charges against. Or indeed any noise made by public officials, elected or not, to discipline media.

This is not to create some kind of "mistah" or compañero, or fraternity system, such as soldiers and lawyers and university students do, dedicated to taking care of one's own or to circling wagons around beleaguered friends or colleagues. By all means excoriate reckless journalists, by all means recriminate against abusive journalists, by all means repudiate erring journalists. Where the excoriation, recrimination and repudiation have merit, I'll stand with you. But by no means intimidate journalists, by no means debilitate journalists, by no means pass laws that attempt to make journalists toe the line. Even if the effort were not self-serving—and it's hard to see how that can be so when it springs from disgruntled public officials—I'll stand apart from you.

That is a cure far deadlier than the disease.

At the very least, it makes journalists out to be juveniles who have to be reined in every now and then by their parents. Look at how Limpiada (rightly) casts Enrile's (and Joker's) stance: If journalists cannot discipline themselves, then it is incumbent upon them to do so. That's the picture of a parent telling his kid: "Feel free to live your life as you please, but if you wreck the car, I'll strangle you." Or whatever it is parents say to kids they have pampered or spoiled.

That's a horrendously patronizing view of the press. The press is not called "the Fourth Estate" for nothing. In its modern sense at least, that title extends to the press the stature of being the "fourth branch of government," after the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. It makes the press a virtual coequal branch of government, it makes the press a virtual independent branch of government. Congress may no more act to discipline erring journalists than it may act to discipline erring judges.

At the very most it reposes upon public officials the capacity to discern when and how the press has gone wayward. That is a chilling thought, which brings me back to Enrile's and Joker's capacity for discernment as shown by "development journalism" and "right of reply."

I grant journalists can be violently reckless, smugly corrupt and damnably abusive. By all means damn them. But leave the sanctions to the press itself. It does not lack for fair and decent-minded officials who, far more than Congress and the public, are outraged by the stupidities their rogue members do. It does not lack for officials who take pride in their work who, far more than Congress or the public, are anxious to weed their ranks of members who take the pride off their profession. I know this solution sucks, but so does democracy: It's a horrible system, as Churchill puts it, except that everything else is worse. Leaving the sanctions to the politicians is worse. It isn't the purging fires of retribution.

It is hellfire.

There's The Rub
By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

EDITORIAL

One more time

Speaking of amnesty, the fundamental difference between Senators Gregorio Honasan and Antonio Trillanes IV is that the latter has seven years or so behind bars to show for it, and his kuya (elder brother), only push-ups. That difference swamps their many similarities, including their both being elected to the Senate despite the mark of adventurism (suggesting that Filipino voters cared not so much for their past crime as for what they stood for, ostensibly, such as a passion for change and reform undiminished even by the constricting military system, which demands of its members a stiff upper lip, an unquestioning nature, unswerving obedience to authority, and then some).

Given time to sort out conflicting legal opinions and swat down those using President Aquino's Proclamation No. 50 as a handy soapbox, and with support loud and clear in both chambers of Congress, Trillanes and company can reasonably expect to be free men before the end of the year. They can certainly wait, having already spent years in confinement. Indeed, what's a couple of months more in detention when the sweet bird of freedom is so close one can hear the rustle of its wings?

And why allow young men professing an adherence to change and reform to waste away, their energies dissipating as the days in prison wear on?

But this is not to say that those who refuse to succumb to amnesia are incorrect to grit their teeth. The Oakwood mutiny of July 2003 and the takeover of the Manila Peninsula in November 2007, both occurring smack in the central business district, portrayed the Philippines in a Wild, Wild West scenario and drove away considerable investments. (The coup attempt mounted by Honasan and his comrades in December 1989, also in Makati, resulted in financial losses anywhere between P800 million and P1 billion! And we're not even talking about the body count.)

Still the Oakwood mutiny, despite what some quarters lamented as the insufferable arrogant behavior of Trillanes and his boys, succeeded in bringing to national attention such long-festering problems as the miserable conditions of the soldiers. Think of the soldiers who have had to endure holes in their boots and substandard helmets, and imagine the New York condos and other luxury possessions enjoyed by the family of former Armed Forces comptroller Carlos Garcia—and perhaps one may begin to understand why Trillanes and his ilk would go against the military grain.

Of course, President Aquino's decision to grant amnesty to Trillanes and more than 300 rebel officers and soldiers hardly guarantees that military adventurism will finally be wiped out in this country where saber-rattling is a sound as familiar as Lady Gaga. An old military hand and Arroyo ally like Hermogenes Esperon has aired a "prayer" that the amnesty proclamation would not breed "recidivists," presumably referring to ex-officers Danilo Lim and Ariel Querubin. Both decorated, both with exemplary records on the field, the two men hold the distinction of having been amnestied for involvement in the December 1989 coup attempt against the first Aquino administration, and of now being included in the amnesty proclamation of the second Aquino administration for rising up against the previous president.

And Lim, after expressing pride in his actions, has gone on to say, portentously, that "everyone is ready to fight even if the enemy is the government itself."

Then President Fidel Ramos granted "unconditional amnesty" to Honasan and 3,730 officers and soldiers involved in the coup attempts of 1987 and 1989 despite the strong objection of Renato de Villa, who was the AFP chief of staff during the 1989 putsch. Ramos described the grant as "a tool for national reconciliation and empowerment."

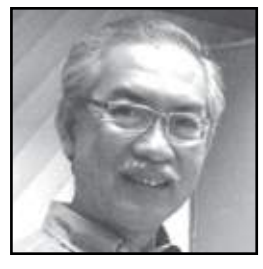
Mr. Aquino, through his spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, uses similar language in rationalizing his own amnesty proclamation: "reconciliation on all fronts—from enemies of the state to rebel soldiers."

But "reconciliation," like "impunity," has become an overused word! (Remember when then President Corazon Aquino, in a moving speech early on in her administration, told her troops: "Welcome home, my soldiers.") No, amnesty is no guarantee that rebels will no longer spring from the military (or insurgents from the oppressed). Not yet. Not when the fledgling administration slips and fumbles on its vaunted "daang matuwid."

No place for buddies

Outside of the small group of gun lovers who had trained with him at the firing range, only a few people knew anything about Interior Undersecretary Rico E. Puno before he was appointed presidential liaison for the Philippine National Police. Despite his position as the President's alter ego on police matters, he kept a very low profile. His name surfaced only in the course of the investigation of the August 23 hostage-taking incident, when it became known that he, rather than the head of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Secretary Jesse Robredo, was in charge of the police.

Today, we know Puno a little better thanks to a free-wheeling exchange he had with Inquirer editors and reporters over dinner last October 7. What he shared with his hosts in that dinner conversation was astounding in its candidness. "In fact, Puno said he was among the few people who could 'tame' Mr. Aquino whenever he becomes overly engaged as Chief Executive." I don't know if this line is just an awkward translation from Tagalog, but anyone who claims to "tame" the President when he becomes overly concerned with his duties is doing him a great disservice.



Public Lives
By RANDY DAVID
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I am quoting from a front-page *Inquirer* report of that encounter (*Inquirer*, 10/11/10). I found it disturbing. I think it says a lot not just about the organization of President Aquino's government but also about the stage in which the Philippine political system finds itself. It shows the extent to which the President seems to rely on long-time buddies he implicitly trusts to help him run the most sensitive parts of government. At the same time, it also reveals how, as usual, the personal tends to be dysfunctionally woven into the institutional, resulting in many of the recurrent governance problems we face today.

No one can fault the President for keeping a close circle of friends to whom he may turn for advice from time to time. If they are qualified, he may be inclined to give them first priority in choice government posts. This is particularly to be expected in political systems that are anchored on kinship and friendship networks rather than on program-based political parties. But it is well to bear in mind that no democratic government in this day and age can be run mainly on the basis of such personal networks. The complexity of today's societies compels the formation of modern institutions that operate according to autonomous codes and programs. Their smooth performance rests heavily on the work of highly qualified individuals who are recruited primarily on the basis of what they can do rather than who they know.

From the way he talks of his relationship with the President, Puno seems to be more than a brother to him. Their ties are deep and their loyalty to one another seems diffused and almost unconditional. "I'll take a bullet for him," he was once quoted as saying. That makes him an excellent buddy for life, but, maybe, for President Aquino, the worst person to recruit for public office. I do not doubt Puno's loyalty to the President, but if he wishes to see him succeed, perhaps the first thing he might consider doing is to stop talking publicly about their friendship. I would go further and say that perhaps the best thing he could do for his buddy is to spare him the anguish of having to admonish him each time he makes a mistake by quitting altogether from government.

Government service is a demanding vocation. When one becomes a public servant, his first loyalty has to be to the nation, not to the person who appointed him. This is such a simple lesson one wonders how people in government can so easily forget it when they talk of their obligations to their friends and families. We can be good public servants and faithful friends at the same time—but to do this, we have to keep these two roles as far away from one another as possible.

In a personalistic culture like ours, I am aware that it may be difficult to ignore friendships, especially those that proved abiding in the course of an often lonely political campaign. If friendship must be accommodated at all, then political prudence dictates that this be done in consonance with, rather than against, the norms of a meritocracy. In short, the bottom line is that friends have to be qualified for the jobs to which they are appointed, especially if these are very important positions.

The *Inquire*r reports that Puno earned his credentials on police matters by training policemen and soldiers in marksmanship, and later by selling guns and ammunitions to them. The connections he established in the course of his work are no doubt important. But I would argue that one needs a different set of qualifications to be able to exercise effective supervision over the police as an institution.

President Aquino's biggest vulnerability has been the quality of some of his major appointments. In defending the appointment of his closest friends to key positions that seem too big for them, he has risked precious political capital. Contrast this to the enormous goodwill and approval he earned when he plucked the irrepressible Leila de Lima from the Commission on Human Rights and made her secretary of the Department of Justice. De Lima is a professional, not a member of the President's personal and political circle, and not his first choice for the job. But, right now, she is probably the administration's most valuable asset. The public knows and cheers an excellent appointment when it sees one. It would be a pity if she quits because she can't work with the President's buddies.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

PINKTOBER
Ellen Delos Santos of No Ka Oi bonds with daughter Savannah during the Pinktober concert at Hard Rock on Oct. 10.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Northern Marianas College student Aleth Kae Atalig spends a fun night out with girlfriends at Hard Rock's Pinktober concert.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Eddie Caranzo of EHC Construction enjoys the Pinktober concert with wife and friends.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

BADGES FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham, extreme left, and Chief Prosecutor Michael Ernest, fifth from left, pose with the prosecutors at the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division in Susupe. Buckingham handed the badges to the prosecutors on Wednesday.

MENTORS
Saipan American Education Foundation School teachers and coaches that guided their students during the PGFC, NJFL, and Math Court pose for a group shot. From left, Sheridan Guevara, Levi Sobremisana, Jener Pineda, Armi Cucal, Sally Habijan, and Mitzi Yema.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 21st birthday to Byron Lester Cruz, which is celebrating his special day this Sunday, Oct. 17. Hope you enjoy your day and God bless—love Alyssa, Kayven, and the family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Maggie M. Cabrera, who celebrates her birthday on Sunday, Oct. 17. Have a wonderful day and may you be blessed with more birthdays to come—with much love coming from your entire familia—kids, grandkids, great-grandson Caleb, and your 1957 crew.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

May each and every passing year bring you wisdom, peace, and cheers. Happy first birthday Elijah-Jayvon Nepaial Adelbai. We love you! From Mom, Dad, and Koby!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Samantha Nepaial. With every year I love you more. Remember that your best years are still ahead of you and I'll be there every step of the way. Love, Slade Adelbai.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

School cafeterias to try psychology in lunch line

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

Hide the chocolate milk behind the plain milk. Get those apples and oranges out of stainless steel bins and into pretty baskets. Cash only for desserts.

These subtle moves can entice kids to make healthier choices in school lunch lines, studies show. Food and restaurant marketers have long used similar tricks. Now the government wants in on the act.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced what it called a major new initiative Tuesday, giving $2 million to food behavior scientists to find ways to use psychology to improve kids' use of the federal school lunch program and fight childhood obesity.

A fresh approach is clearly needed, those behind the effort say.

Online: Cornell project: http://SmarterLunchrooms.org

About one-third of children and teens are obese or overweight. Bans on soda and junk food have backfired in some places. Some students have abandoned school meal programs that tried to force-feed healthy choices. When one school district put fruit on every lunch tray, most of it ended up in the garbage.

So instead of pursuing a carrot or a stick approach, schools want to entice kids to choose the carrot sticks, figuring children are more likely to eat something they select themselves.

"It's not nutrition till it's eaten," said Joanne Guthrie, a USDA researcher who announced the new grants. The initiative will include creation of a child nutrition center at Cornell University, which has long led this type of research.

Some tricks already judged a success by Cornell researchers: Keep ice cream in freezers without glass display tops so the treats are out of sight. Move salad bars next to the checkout registers, where students linger to pay, giving them more time to ponder a salad. And start a quick line for make-your-own subs and wraps, as Corning East High School in upstate New York did.

"I eat that every day now," instead of the chicken patty sandwiches that used to be a staple, said Shea Beecher, a 17-year-old senior.

"It's like our own little Subway," said Sterling Smith, a 15-year-old sophomore. (Hint to the school: Freshen up the fruit bowl; the choices are pretty narrow by the time Smith gets to his third-shift lunch period.)

Last year, the USDA asked the Institute of Medicine for advice on its school lunch and breakfast programs, which provide free or subsidized meals to more than 31 million schoolchildren each day. The institute recommended more fruit, vegetables and whole grains with limits on fat, salt and calories. But it was clear this wouldn't help unless kids accepted healthier foods, Guthrie said.

"We can't just say we're going to change the menu and all of our problems will be solved," she said.

The agency requested proposals from researchers on how to get kids to actually eat the good stuff. Cornell scientists Brian Wansink and David Just will get $1 million to establish the child nutrition center. Fourteen research sites around the country will share the other $1 million.

"Findings from this emerging field of research— behavioral economics— could lead to significant improvements in the diets of millions of children across America," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a statement.

Cornell's focus will be developing "smart lunchrooms" that guide kids to make good choices even when more tempting ones are around.

"We're not taking things away from kids," Wansink said. "It's making the better choice the easier, more convenient choice."

Wansink is a prominent food science researcher, known for studies on the depiction of food in paintings of the Last Supper and how the placement of a candy jar can affect how much people eat from it.

Christine Wallace, food service director for Corning City School District near Cornell University, met him a few years ago and invited him to use her 14 schools as a lab.

"We tend to look at what we're offering and to make sure it's well prepared and in the correct portion size, and not the psychology of it. We're just not trained that way," Wallace said.

For example, some Corning schools had express lines for a la carte items - mostly chips, cookies and ice cream. The idea was to reduce bottlenecks caused by full tray lunches that took longer to ring up. But the result was a public health nightmare.

"We were making it very convenient for them to quickly go through the line and get a bunch of less nutritious items," Wallace said.

After studies by Wansink, they renamed some foods in the elementary schools—"X-ray vision carrots" and "lean, mean green beans"—and watched consumption rise. Cafeteria workers also got more involved, asking, "Would you rather have green beans or carrots today?" instead of waiting for a kid to request them.

And just asking, "Do you want a salad with that?" on pizza day at one high school raised salad consumption 30 percent, Wansink said.

AP

In this Aug. 18, 2006 file photo, students eat lunch at Pleasant View Middle School in Springfield, Tenn. The U.S. government is trying new approaches to get kids to choose healthier foods.

Nepal teen stands tall as world's shortest man

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

POKHARA, Nepal (AP)—A Nepalese fruit seller's son with the body of a toddler turned 18 on Thursday and was officially declared the world's shortest man by Guinness record officials.

Khagendra Thapa Magar measured in at 26.4 inches (67 centimeters), displacing the former record holder, Edward Nino Hernandez of Colombia, who measures 27 inches (70 centimeters).

Cheers went up when Magar was handed a world record certificate by Guinness official Marco Frigatti. The ceremony was held in a hotel in Pokhara, Magar's hometown and a popular tourist destination west of Katmandu.

"I can confirm that as of today Khagendra Thapa Magar is officially the shortest man in the world," Frigatti announced as he handed over the certificate.

Magar's family has campaigned for years to get him the crown, but earlier requests to Guinness were rejected because of the possibility he might grow.

"We had to wait till he was 18 and became an adult," Frigatti said.

"We are very proud of our son," said his father, Rup Bahadur Thapa Magar. "We have been finally recognized and our dreams have finally come true."

On Thursday, Magar and his family excitedly welcomed journalists to their home, where Magar jumped on the kitchen table and made tea for the visitors and family members. He also received presents for his 18th birthday and danced to the sound of a toy drum.

Magar, who weighs just over 12 pounds (5.5 kilograms), was tiny even at birth, weighing just 1.3 pounds (600 grams). His father says he has no explanation for why he never grew taller - his younger brother is a normal height for a boy of 13.

Local doctors are stumped, but lack facilities for detailed testing.

Magar's doctor for the past five years says he has the body of a 3-year-old.

"His body structure is like that of a small child and he also thinks and behaves in that manner," Hum Prasad Newpane said.

Magar—who already travels as part of a dancing troupe when he isn't helping his parents in their fruit shop—seems ready for the media spotlight that will accompany his new title.

Next year he is to serve as a government-appointed goodwill ambassador as his nation celebrates Visit Nepal Year.

"I am very happy and excited," he said.

AP

A Nepalese doctor measures the height of Nepal's Khagendra Thapa Magar as a Guinness record official watches before declaring Magar the world's shortest man, at a local hospital in Pokhara, some 200 kilometers (124 miles) west of Katmandu, Nepal, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010.

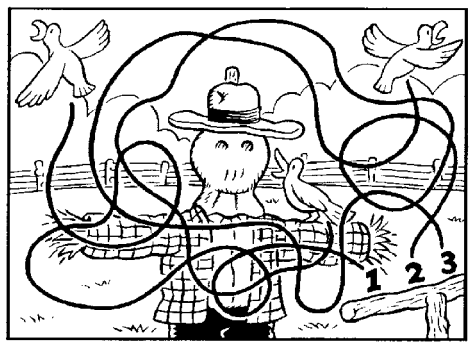
Dog that saved lives in Haiti gets national honor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A once-abandoned dog that helped save lives after the Haiti earthquake and a three-legged cat that inspired a series of children's books have received national honors.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals announced its dog and cat of the year awards Monday. Both are one-time California castoffs.

Pearl, a 4-year-old Labrador retriever, was abandoned at a shelter, then trained and sent this year to Haiti with a rescue team from the Los Angeles County Fire Department. The county's seven rescue teams helped bring 12 people to safety.

Cat honors went to Henry, a stray, injured kitten found near San Diego in 2004. After his leg was amputated, he inspired the children's books that have generated more than $50,000 for animal causes.



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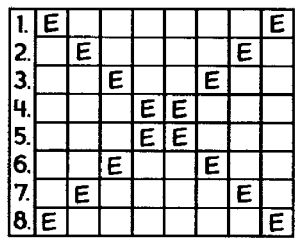
CAN YOU GUESS which one of these birds is not a chicken when to comes to scarecrows?

Answer: Crow number 2 is the brave one.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



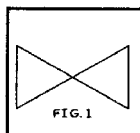
FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Can you find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left? A definition for each is provided below, and the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word for the grid.

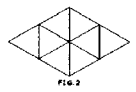
DEFINITION:	ANAGRAM:
1. A sports announcer wears one.	hope + near
2. Where birds and bells hang out.	ribs + feel
3. Great mixers.	serb + lend
4. Concealed with a decorative overlay.	need + veer
5. Favorably regarded.	teed + seem
6. The winning burger was ___.	fees + bite
7. Toast and egg dishes (sl).	yeas + deed
8. To twist into a confusing mess.	gent + lane

Answers: 1. Earphone. 2. Belfries. 3. Blenders. 4. Veneered. 5. Esteemed. 6. Beefiest. 7. Deadeyes. 8. Entangle.

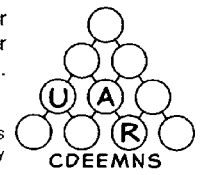
THE FIVE-WILL-GET-YOU-EIGHT WAGER!



Draw figure 1 on a sheet of paper. Then challenge your friends to add five straight lines to the drawing so that the result will give you eight equal-size triangles. Our solution is shown in figure 2.



CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Scud, scum, scam, scar, seam, sear, seer, seen

Why do dogs eat dirt?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have three rescued dogs that each dig a small hole, usually with their teeth, and proceed to eat the dirt. I feed them quality food, so I don't know what they're after. Is this typical behavior or are they lacking a mineral that the dirt is providing? I'm also not real happy about the holes in the lawn. I'll bet I am not the only one with this issue.—Jeannette V., Billings Mont.

DEAR JEANNETTE: You're right, this behavior is actually fairly common and a source of distress for a lot of dog owners. Termed "pica"—defined by the Angell Memorial Hospital's Book of Wellness and Preventive Care for Dogs as "an abnormal desire to eat things that are indigestible"—this behavior includes eating dirt and rocks. Some dogs will eat sticks, socks or whatever is handy.

A common form of pica is coprophagia, a fancy term for "eating poop," which many dog owners also deal with.

Pica is a symptom of obsessive-compulsive disorder, although a nutritional deficiency also can be a cause. So the first thing to do is consult the dogs' veterinarian. The vet may ask you to bring in samples of the dogs' stool to check for worms or other problems. (Separate each dog's sample in plastic baggies labeled with their names.) Even if the vet doesn't find a physical cause, he or she may recommend you add a vitamin supplement to their diets.

You'll also need to address the obsessive-compulsive component. This means going outside with the dogs (or taking them out one by one for awhile). When they start digging or chewing at the ground, distract them immediately and call them over for a short spell of basic obedience training, rewarding them with either treats or praise depending on your training style. You also must fill in and re-sod the small holes in the lawn.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was British mathematician, historian, logician and philosopher Bertrand Russell who made the following sage observation: "Boredom is a vital problem for the moralist, since at least half of the sins of mankind are caused by the fear of it."

■ The next time you're in South Dakota, you might want to make a side trip to the town of Rosalyn. Visitors there can take a look through the International Vinegar Museum.

■ Statistics on sporting events show that 17 of the 20 sporting events with the most attendees every year are NASCAR races.

■ Though coffee has been around for about 700 years, instant coffee was invented just more than 100 years ago, in 1906. By George Washington. Of course not *that* George Washington. The man who made coffee more convenient was from Belgium.

■ Albert Einstein's theories of relativity suggest that the passage of time is affected not only by acceleration (a person traveling at the speed of light, for instance, will age more slowly than someone who is stationary), but also by gravity. Scientists using ultra-precise atomic clocks have proved that people who experience a stronger gravitational pull age more quickly. What does this mean for you? If you spend your life precisely at sea level and your twin lives at 1 foot above sea level, over the course of a 79-year lifespan a difference of 90 billionths of a second will develop between your ages.

■ The average coffee tree yields only enough beans every year to make one pound of coffee.

■ You might be surprised to learn that, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, the car that was stolen the most in the United States in 2009 was the 1994 Honda Accord.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Only enemies speak the truth; friends and lovers lie endlessly, caught in the web of duty."—Stephen King

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MAGIC MAZE ● OUT —

Q	S	H	E	B	Y	V	S	P	M	J	H	E	B	Y
V	T	T	Q	O	E	L	I	G	G	D	B	Y	W	T
R	A	H	P	M	K	C	N	I	F	D	R	B	Y	W
U	N	S	G	Q	O	I	I	T	M	K	E	I	F	D
B	D	Z	X	I	D	W	U	T	H	K	G	S	Q	O
N	I	L	J	L	N	E	H	F	C	G	G	D	D	C
A	N	A	I	Y	I	L	Y	U	W	A	I	E	U	S
V	G	U	E	T	M	S	L	A	C	Q	R	R	O	A
P	B	N	L	S	F	F	K	A	L	O	I	P	L	G
H	F	D	N	U	O	B	E	C	C	P	L	B	F	F
Z	Y	W	V	U	S	T	T	S	R	U	B	D	R	O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

All night	Loud	Of practice	Scored
Bound	Of gas	Played	Standing
Burst	Of luck	Rigger	To sea
Cold	Of mind	Right	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		+		15
+		÷		−	
	÷		+		11
x		x		x	
	x		−		19
27		24		10	

1 2 3 5 6 7 8 8 9

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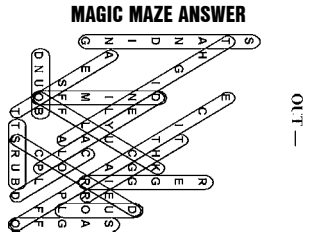
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	10		24		27
19	5	−	8	x	3
	x		x		x
11	7	+	2	÷	8
	−		÷		+
15	9	+	6	x	1

Spooktacular candles light up halloween

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Invite a ghost, a monster and a smiling pumpkin into your home this month with this super-easy and, yes, just a little messy, rainy-day craft project that kids and adults of all ages will enjoy. You'll be repurposing old vases and tossed jars from your recycle bin, cutting up colorful tissue paper and messing around with lots of sticky glue to create spooky "stained-glass look" votive candleholders that will brighten and bring living color to your Halloween decor.

When the glue has dried, line 'em up and light 'em up to welcome a spooktacular Halloween holiday spirit at your house.

Here's the stuff you'll need:

■ Tissue paper in black and in bright, traditional Halloween colors such as orange, lime green and purple.

■ Empty, medium-size clear glass pasta or pickle jars with labels removed, old wide-mouth vases and even fish bowls that are collecting dust and ready to be repurposed.

■ Household white glue such as Elmer's all-purpose white glue.

■ Small bowl.

■ Paintbrush and scissors.

Here's the fun:

Cut the plain-color tissue paper into 1-inch squares, triangles and rectangles. Older kids and adults may use the black tissue for cutting specific shapes for the features of a Halloween character, such as circles for the eyes and mouth of a white tissue-paper ghost. Or the zigzag mouth and triangle-shape eyes and nose of an orange pumpkin.

Squeeze white household glue into the small bowl and dilute with a few drops of water. Brush a light coat of the glue mixture on the outside of the glass container.

In an overlapping pattern, apply the tissue shapes over the glue, applying the background colored shapes first. Smooth out each piece with your fingers as you go along. When working with young children, you might want to apply glue to the glass a section at a time, so fingers don't get too gooey to handle the paper.

When the outside of the glass is covered, apply another coating or two of the glue mixture over all of the tissue paper. Let dry for several hours. When dry, the tissue paper will look bright and colorful once again.

Set a battery-operated votive candle inside and display on a windowsill or use as a table centerpiece at a Halloween party.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

TV, publishing jumping on story of Chilean miners

NEW YORK (AP)—The Chilean mine rescue was an "uplifting and exciting" story in contrast to accounts of tragedy and woe that dominate the news, a top television executive said Thursday, explaining a rush to tell the tale in many formats.

Already, there's a book deal about the rescue, a reality show about mining and a Discovery Channel special on the saga. Wednesday's quickie ABC News special on the rescue of the 33 miners, who were trapped underground for 69 days, drew the biggest audience the network has gotten in the time slot in 10 months.

"I can imagine agents and other folks are already swirling around this, looking to get those stories locked up," said Clark Bunting, president and general manager of Discovery. That network's Latin American affiliate is making "Rescued: The Chilean Mine Story" and an Oct. 28 air date is already scheduled.

He called it uplifting how the miners created their own society underground and ran it smoothly.

The Spike TV network said it has ordered a 10-episode series, "Coal," set to premiere next spring. "Coal" is based in a West Virginia town and explores mining through the eyes of the mine owners and miners. Thom Beers, the producer behind "Deadliest Catch" and "Ice Road Truckers," is making the new series.

Transworld Publishers announced that it would publish "The 33," by journalist Jonathan Franklin, who has lived in Chile for 16 years and covered the rescue story. A U.S. publisher is still being sought.

AP

In this photo released by the Chilean government, miner Raul Bustos, left, embraces an unidentified woman after after being rescued from the collapsed San Jose gold and copper mine where he had been trapped with 32 other miners for over two months near Copiapo, Chile, Wednesday Oct. 13, 2010.

Writer-producer Lionel Chetwynd, an Oscar nominee for the screenplay "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz" and maker of the TV films "Kissinger and Nixon" and "Ike: Countdown to D-Day," said he expects projects are already being pitched around Hollywood.

"Television is a quick-response medium," Chetwynd said. "In fact, I think I'll call my agent when we get off the phone."

With the movie of the week business essentially evaporating, reality show producers might be better suited to the story, Chetwynd said. It would keep the story fresh; the Hallmark Channel said its representatives found the story interesting, but the cable network is already locked in to movies that it is producing through the end of 2011.

Veteran television writer Jeffrey Stepakoff said if someone approached him to do the story, "I would think about it for a few seconds and say `yeah.'"The miners alone weren't enough for the story, he said. Stepakoff, a drama instructor at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, said he'd also focus on their families aboveground and the technological race to extract them.

"I would want to re-create the tension that I felt when I first heard about the story," he said.

Measurements of TV and online traffic showed the pull of the story. At the time the first miner was pulled to the surface on Tuesday night, the viewing audience for CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC was 10.6 million people—more than quadruple the audience these networks usually get collectively at that hour, the Nielsen Co. said.

Facebook, the world's largest online social hub, saw a peak in the number of people discussing the story at the time of the first miner's emergence. The site's internal statistics show that U.S. users posted about the rescue at a maximum of 1,265 times per minute in the U.S. and 478 times per minute in Chile.

Twitter users were also excited about it.

"Bigtears wellup in my eyes everytime one of the miners gets to hug his family!" wrote singer and actress Hilary Duff.

"Miracles do happen," singer Justin Bieber said.

Actor Michael Caine called it "the happiest moment I've ever seen on TV."

Miners themselves could expect to cash in on their stories, even from journalists: Although television networks in the United States have restrictions against paying for interviews, they frequently bypass them by paying for travel or the rights to family pictures.

"Right now it's a real scramble on the ground down there with literally thousands of media all looking for interviews," said Jim Bell, executive producer of NBC's "Today" show.

The biggest interview target is undoubtedly miner Yonni Barrios, whose mistress showed up to greet him when he came up from the mine while his wife stayed home.

Both the New York Daily News and Post gave Barrios their front pages on Thursday. "He's All Mine," the Post wrote.

The story even inspired musicians. The rock band the Pixies performed in Santiago, Chile, on Wednesday and played 33 songs—one for each miner. It was the largest set list the band ever played, singer Black Francis said.

"We found out five minutes before we went on stage that all of the miners had safely reached the surface," he said. "This was definitely one of the most meaningful shows we've ever played."

Online conversation in Hollywood quickly turned to how the story might play out on-screen. The website Movieline.com suggested five directors who might tackle the tale.

"I hope someone has the guts to make the 'Real Chilean Miners of Orange County,'" joked comic Eugene Mirman.

France bestows Legion of Honor on Robert Redford

PARIS (AP)—The "Sundance Kid" was a hit in Paris.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy inducted Robert Redford into France's elite Legion of Honor in an intimate ceremony Thursday, congratulating the 74-year-old American actor/director on his decades-long film career and his work to protect the environment.

Pinning a red-ribboned medal to Redford's blue suit, Sarkozy made him a knight in the Legion of Honor.

"I know 65 million French people who would like to be in my shoes right now," Sarkozy joked during a speech in French, which Redford followed in translation through an earpiece.

Sarkozy told Redford—"you are the incarnation of the United States and all that that country represents." He said Redford's roles in films like 1969's "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," 1985's "Out of Africa" and "The Great Gatsby," from 1974, continue to delight viewers.

"Those who love cinema long remember ... (your) films, which we watch and re-watch with the same emotion each time," Sarkozy said.

He also praised Redford's long commitment to environmental causes.

"We need friends like you have the courage to try to wake up people's consciousness" about the environment, Sarkozy said.

AP

U.S. actor and director Robert Redford, right, reacts after being awarded with the Knight of the Legion of Honor, by France's President Nicolas Sarkozy during a ceremony at the Elysee Palace in Paris, Thursday Oct. 14, 2010.

Redford thanked the French people, recalling the time he spent in France after dropping out of college.

"I didn't know anything about my own country, I was naive and narrow-minded and it was the French students ... who opened my eyes and gave me a real education," said Redford, who was flanked at the ceremony at Paris' Elysee presidential palace by his wife, painter Sibylle Szaggers.

"I will continue with my commitment to make cinema that opens people's spirits and goes beyond borders, and this prize will help me do that," said Redford, who also directed the 1992 hit "A River Runs Through It" and the 2007 political drama "Lions for Lambs."

Redford also founded the popular Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, which focuses on independent cinema. Napoleon Bonaparte created the legion in 1802. It recognizes military, cultural, scientific or social contributions to France, including by people who are not French citizens. Previous inductees include Clint Eastwood, another actor-turned-director, and Canadian director David Cronenberg.

Box Office Preview: 'Jackass 3D' to be 3-peat hit

AP

In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Johnny Knoxville is shown in a scene from "Jackass 3D."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Johnny Knoxville and company are set to make a complete jackass out of the box office this weekend as Paramount's "Jackass 3D" looks to add another No. 1 debut to the franchise's perfect track record.

Derived from the outrageous MTV show, the first film was a surprise hit in 2002 when it opened on top in late October with $22.8 million. The second movie was an even bigger hit when it debuted in late September of 2006 with a winning $29 million.

Now, it looks like these jackasses will again have the last laugh all the way to the bank, but this time they're boosted by the novelty of 3-D, which is likely to provide an opening take of between $30 million to $35 million.

Summit Entertainment's "Red" takes a page out of "The Expendables" playbook with an all-star ensemble cast, action galore and enough comedic elements to give the film broad-based appeal.

Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich, Mary-Louise Parker, Helen Mirren and Richard Dreyfus round out a very diverse, though somewhat unconventional cast for this type of action film. A gross of around $20 million should land the film in second place for the weekend.

Sony's "The Social Network" continues its terrific run, hitting the $50 million mark on Wednesday after just 13 days of release as it continues to generate strong word-of-mouth, draw critical accolades and even awards season buzz.

A low 30 percent drop going into its third weekend will give the film another $10 million and a total to date of over $60 million. The second weekend of both Warner Bros.' romantic comedy "Life as We Know It" and Disney's inspirational true life horse racing drama "Secretariat" will put them in a dead heat for the fourth and fifth positions in the weekend derby with grosses in the $7 million to $8 million range.

NY mosque argument on 'The View' leads to walk-off

NEW YORK (AP)—Joy Behar and Whoopi Goldberg walked off the stage of "The View" Thursday during an argument with Bill O'Reilly over the proposed Islamic center near the site of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The women objected to the Fox News Channel host saying that "Muslims killed us on 9/11." They returned after an O'Reilly apology.

The fireworks came amid a heated argument on the issue.

"Listen to me," O'Reilly said, "because you'll learn something."

"Pinhead!" retorted Behar, who also hosts a prime-time show on HLN.

O'Reilly, who was on the popular daytime talk show to promote his book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama," said locating the Islamic Center near ground zero is inappropriate "because Muslims killed us on 9/11."

Goldberg responded with an expletive and Behar rose from her seat.

AP

In this Sept. 7, 2010 file photo released by ABC, co-hosts Whoopi Goldberg, left, and Joy Behar pose on the set of their daytime talk show, "The View," in New York.

"I don't want to sit here," Behar said. "I don't. I'm outraged by that statement."

She walked off the set, followed by Goldberg.

The show's creator, Barbara Walters, immediately said her colleagues were wrong to walk off.

"We should be able to have discussions without washing our hands and screaming and walking offstage," she said. But she also scolded O'Reilly, saying that it was extremists who committed the terrorist act. "You cannot take a whole religion and demean them," she said.

"I'm not demeaning anybody," O'Reilly said.

"Yes," Walters replied. "You are."

After some more back-and-forth, O'Reilly said that "if anybody felt that I was demeaning all Muslims, I apologize."

Behar and Goldberg returned, with Behar saying, "We're back now because you apologized."

The 16-story Islamic center and mosque is planned for lower Manhattan, two blocks north of where the World Trade Center once stood. Critics say the location denigrates the memory of those who died on Sept. 11, 2001. Proponents say planners have a constitutional right to build and see the project as a reflection of religious freedom and diversity.

Carrie Underwood, 'The Blind Side' win ICM Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Carrie Underwood is getting recognized for inspiring people.

The music video for her No. 1 hit "Temporary Home" won inspirational video of the year at the Inspirational Country Music Awards Thursday night.

"The Blind Side," starring Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw, won the faith, family and country movie of the year. The real life inspiration for Bullock's character, Leigh Ann Tuohy, accepted the award at the ceremony in Nashville.

The big prize, entertainer of the year, went to Christian trio Point of Grace. Singer Tommy Brandt won male vocalist for the second year in a row, and Mary James was named female vocalist of the year.

Craig Morgan picked up two awards: mainstream country artist of the year and mainstream inspirational song for "This Ain't Nothin.'"

The ICM Awards will air on DayStar Television Network.

In this June 10, 2010 file photo, Carrie Underwood performs during the CMA Music Festival in Nashville, Tenn.

AP

Barbara Walters to interview Oprah Winfrey

NEW YORK (AP)—Barbara Walters will sit down for a prime-time interview with Oprah Winfrey about the end of the daytime talk star's show.

The hourlong interview will air Dec. 9 on ABC. Walters will follow Winfrey that night with another hour about the most fascinating people of 2010.

The Winfrey special will include the star talking about memorable moments in her 25-year-old show. She's giving it up at the end of this season and concentrating on her own cable network. ABC said Thursday that Walters will do the interview in Chicago at Winfrey's home and Harpo Studios.

In this May 12, 2006 file photo originally released by ABC, talk show host Oprah Winfrey, right, joins Barbara Walters, co-host of The View at ABC studios in New York. It was Winfreys first appearance on the show.

AP

Prince announces tour to start in December

NEW YORK (AP)—Iconic singer Prince says he's planning a tour to begin in December that will feature him, his band and other performers.

The 52-year-old said Thursday night at New York's famed Apollo Theater that he was announcing "a series of events," dubbed "Welcome 2 America."

He says he will perform with his band, the New Power Generation, and serve as master of ceremonies.

The singer says "Welcome 2 America" is "best described as what we've all been waiting for." He tells concertgoers to "bring friends, bring your children and bring foot spray 'cause it's gon' be funky."

Prince says the shows will feature funk, R&B and jazz artists including Maceo Parker, Janelle Monae, Mint Condition, Esperanza Spalding, Lalah Hathaway, Sheila E., Cassandra Wilson and Graham Central Station.

AP

Musician Prince holds a press conference at The Apollo Theater announcing his "Welcome 2 America" tour in New York, on Thursday.

Boys with their funny looks are a persistent fact of life

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 12-year-old girl with a big problem. My class recently learned about reproduction. All of the girls accepted it in a mature manner, but it's another story with the boys.

Now all the boys look at me funny when I walk through the hall. It makes me feel awkward. Should I ignore them or should I say something?

EMBARRASSED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Right now, I suspect most of your classmates are feeling awkward. A frank discussion about reproduction has been known to make students older than you uncomfortable. It is, however, a part of life—and contrary to what some may think, ignorance isn't bliss.

Acting the way the boys are is normal for their age. But if it continues, rather than saying anything to them—which might encourage more of the same—talk to a teacher about it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Shortly before I started college, a relative introduced me to "Paul," who would be attending the same school, and told us we were distant cousins. Paul and I became friends. We socialized together often and all our friends knew us as cousins.

It wasn't until after graduation that our parents told us that while we have a relative in common, it is by marriage, and we are not related to each other. Paul and I have a lot in common, and he has expressed an interest in pursuing a relationship with me.

Paul is a great guy, but I'm reluctant to date him because all our friends think we're related. It almost feels like we are doing something wrong. Can you please share your opinion on this situation?

IT'S ALL RELATIVE

DEAR ALL RELATIVE: There is nothing to stop you and Paul from becoming romantically involved if you're both leaning in that direction. The way to deal with it would be to tell your friends, before you start being seen together, how "amusing" it is that you were led to believe the two of you were related, when it turns out that you AREN'T. It was all a big mistake. (Ha-ha.)

That should quell most of the gossip you're concerned about. And if you're asked directly, repeat what you told me.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been involved with a man, "Seth," for more than two years. We share mutual interests and he makes me laugh. For the most part we're happy, but I have one concern. I have yet to receive flowers from Seth, although he has mentioned many times that he had sent them to his ex while they were together.

Is it wrong for me to expect flowers, or should I just forget the idea and leave it alone?

WAITING FOR ROSES IN HOUSTON

DEAR WAITING: Not knowing Seth, I can't say whether his unwillingness to send you flowers is because after what happened with his ex he considers them a bad investment or whether he's just cheap. But because the absence of flowers is bothering you, ask HIM about the omission.

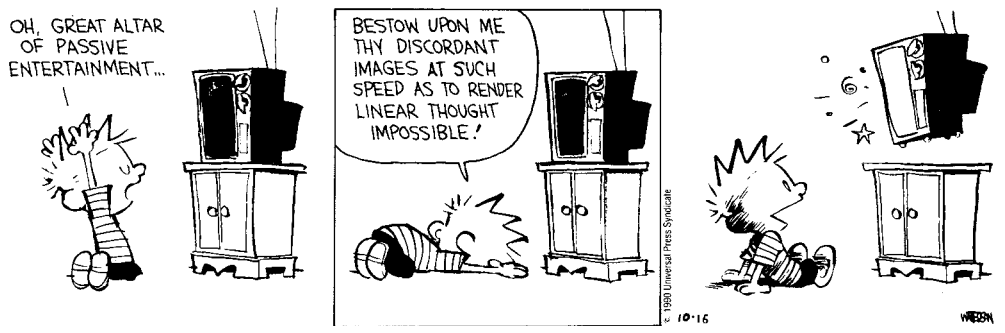
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH, GREAT ALTAR OF PASSIVE ENTERTAINMENT...
BESTOW UPON ME THY DISCORDANT IMAGES AT SUCH SPEED AS TO RENDER LINEAR THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE!
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10-16

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

ALWAYS FINISH WHAT YOU START
SOUNDS LIKE GOOD ADVICE
AND I DON'T JUST MEAN FOOD
NOW I'M CONFUSED
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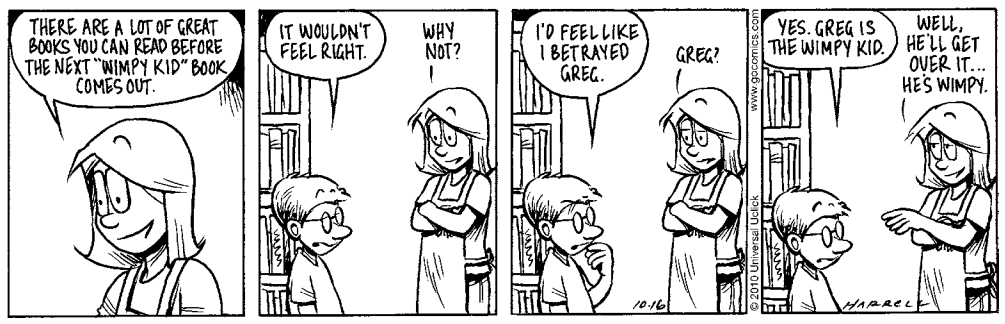
www.garfield.com
JIM DAVIS 10-16
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THERE ARE A LOT OF GREAT BOOKS YOU CAN READ BEFORE THE NEXT "WIMPY KID" BOOK COMES OUT.
IT WOULDN'T FEEL RIGHT.
WHY NOT?
I'D FEEL LIKE I BETRAYED GREG.
GREG?
YES. GREG IS THE WIMPY KID.
WELL, HE'LL GET OVER IT... HE'S WIMPY.
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10-16

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU SHOULD ALWAYS HANG OUT UNTIL CLOSING TIME. THAT WAY, YOU HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF SCORING WITH REALLY DESPERATE WOMEN.
THAT'S VERY PROFOUND.
THANKS. I CALL IT "THE ENO DOCTRINE."
© 2016 Glenn McCoy Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

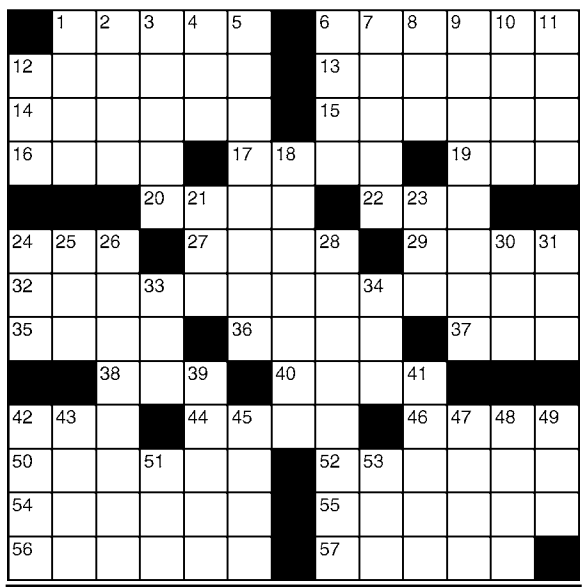
ACROSS
1 Grill, for short
6 Plot
12 Department
13 Chalkboard accessory
14 Vitamin C source
15 List
16 — mater
17 Distort
19 Shaker — OH
20 Keeping everyone waiting
22 Conk out
24 Helgenberger series
27 14-Across' coat
29 On
32 Nuts
35 Bridge
36 Infamous Roman
37 — au vin
38 Rent
40 Pebbles' pet
42 Justice Dept. division
44 Robert of "Airplane!"
46 Roller coaster remark
50 1, 2, 3, vis-a-vis I, II, III
52 Archipelago parts
54 Pooch
55 Met expectations?
56 Checked out
57 Birth-related

DOWN
1 Folk-singer Ives
2 Composer Khachaturian
3 Of the kidneys
4 Satchel
5 Interrogate
6 Withered
7 Three, they say
8 Possesses
9 Pleasing in appearance
10 Bump into
11 Blunders
12 Feathery accessory
18 Half-dollar face
21 "Bow-wow!"
23 Cartesian conclusion
24 Lettuce variety
25 Dine
26 Po folks?
28 Scorn
30 Yoko of music
31 Without delay
33 Inseparable
34 Trinity member
39 "Were — That Special Face"
41 Little hooter
42 Datum
43 Highland hillside
45 Scored 100 on
47 Juno's counterpart
48 Handy pc. of Latin
49 Curvy character
51 Morsel
53 Hot tub

Solution time: 27 mins.

L	E	T	■	P	R	O	D	■	Q	U	A	Y
I	L	O	■	R	U	B	E	■	U	R	G	E
Z	E	P	P	E	L	I	N	■	I	N	O	N
A	V	I	A	T	E	■	I	N	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	N	O	R	■	Z	E	N	I	T	H
W	E	B	E	R	■	D	E	W	■	S	E	E
H	I	L	L	■	R	U	N	■	B	L	E	W
I	R	A	■	T	E	N	■	B	L	E	S	S
Z	E	B	R	A	S	■	P	E	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	I	I	■	E	G	G	N	O	G
H	U	N	G	■	Z	E	R	O	H	O	U	R
O	R	E	O	■	E	R	I	N	■	S	R	I
P	I	E	R	■	D	A	L	E	■	E	S	P

Yesterday's answer 10-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Mayer, 33; Kellie Martin, 35; Tim Robbins, 52; Angela Lansbury, 85

Happy Birthday: The more creative, imaginative and innovative you are, the further ahead you will get. There are plenty of changes heading your way. Alterations to your home, living arrangements or your geographical location are apparent. Stay away from individuals who want to control your life and your future. Now is not the time to give in just to keep the peace. Your numbers are 4, 11, 19, 22, 27, 36, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. An emotional challenge will develop between you and someone you are close to. A problem with someone you work with may lead to a change in your position. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You will be emotionally confused by the reactions you get from other people. Offering your services is fine but make sure you are clear about the cost involved. Take whatever steps are necessary to prepare for your next move. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Reassess your job, your home and your family life. Be honest about what's working and what's not. Come up with a plan that will ease your stress and get you moving in a direction that makes you want to participate. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Romantic relationships can prosper if you make the right choice and talk about future trends. Children will give you an interesting perspective. Enjoy the people who deserve your time and attention. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will discover information about a friend or neighbor. Use the knowledge you receive wisely. A partnership will change if you are honest about how you feel. A long distance connection can be made. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Spending time with friends or family or getting involved in a challenging activity or event will help you feel revitalized and will lead to an interesting proposition. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): With a little discipline you should be able to finish a project you started some time ago. Your creativity is up and so is your patience. The work you put in today will bring positive results. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be torn between what someone wants you to do or expects of you and what you want to explore. A challenge will stimulate your senses, allowing you to be and do your very best. Have fun. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't take on too much or make promises you cannot keep. Focus on the moment and what you can do easily. You may be interested in someone from your past but it isn't likely to turn out in your favor if you try to get in touch. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Just when you think you are getting ahead or have all your ducks in a row, someone is likely to dismantle your plans. Proceed with caution and refrain from criticizing or putting blame on someone else. The way you handle adversity now will determine your future situations. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): It's time to sort through your personal possessions. There is money to be made if you have a garage sale or you simply sell what you no longer need. Your ability to collect can turn into a mini business on the side. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your emphasis should be on home, family or the one you love most. Make plans or a promise that will seal a deal personally. You will be able to start moving in a direction that can assist you in getting ahead emotionally, financially or even physically. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive and lean toward the unusual and the obscure. You tend to be private about your personal life. You stand behind your beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8		4	2		
						1	6	
		1		3			5	7
5								3
		9		7		6		
7								8
4	1			5		9		
	6	2						
		8	1		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	8	7	6	5	3	4	9	2
4	9	6	7	2	1	5	3	8
5	2	3	8	9	4	1	7	6
7	5	1	9	4	6	8	2	3
6	4	8	3	1	2	9	5	7
2	3	9	5	7	8	6	1	4
8	7	5	4	3	9	2	6	1
3	1	4	2	6	5	7	8	9
9	6	2	1	8	7	3	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PUMPKIN CARVING **Solution: 8 letters**

S	T	E	A	D	Y	S	G	N	I	K	R	A	M	O
U	T	H	E	A	D	S	S	N	R	E	T	T	A	P
R	S	E	G	D	A	T	E	O	W	L	S	T	S	E
F	E	S	F	I	A	I	S	T	U	G	H	Y	T	N
A	T	P	E	I	L	L	U	M	I	N	A	T	E	I
C	N	L	A	N	N	S	B	E	E	A	L	R	R	N
E	O	N	E	P	K	K	H	V	R	S	L	A	P	G
D	C	E	E	T	A	C	I	L	E	D	O	P	I	S
G	A	T	S	S	T	T	I	T	A	E	W	I	E	C
E	N	A	C	I	A	E	E	H	R	E	E	E	C	R
S	D	R	W	E	Z	E	R	D	T	S	E	C	E	A
C	L	O	R	E	T	E	R	I	I	R	N	E	L	P
O	E	C	Y	H	T	A	I	G	N	S	I	S	I	E
O	S	E	L	U	T	D	E	S	I	G	N	M	A	S
P	S	D	O	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓔ	Ⓜ	W	E	B	B	I	N	G

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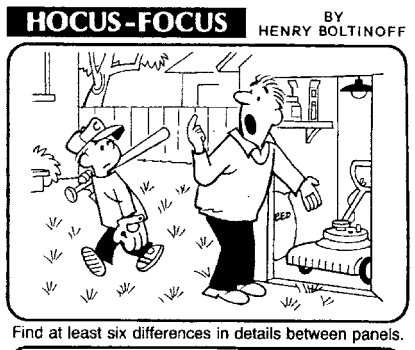
Angle, Blade, Candles, Contest, Creative, Date, Decorate, Delicate, Design, Edges, Eyes, Grease, Guts, Halloween, Head, Illuminate, Inside, Knife, Lettering, Light, Markings, Masterpiece, Nail, Openings, Outer, Owls, Paper, Party, Pattern, Pieces, Rear, Scoop, Scrape, Seeds, Size, Slits, Star, Steady, Stem, Surface, Teeth, Thickness, Trim, Webbing, Witch

Yesterday's Answer: Lighthouse

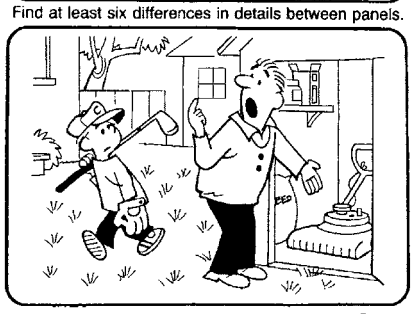
The NEW Treasury 9 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-4480. Order online at upuzzles.com. (contains 130 puzzles, 33 of which are the larger 20 x 20 size)

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Light is missing. 2. Man's shirt has buttons. 3. Fence ends before house. 4. Window is different. 5. Boy has a golf club. 6. Lawnmower has no wheels.

Wishing Well®

3	8	7	5	2	5	6	7	4	7	6	4	6
B	Y	D	D	A	O	A	E	S	F	C	E	T
8	5	3	8	3	5	4	5	4	6	8	6	5
O	M	R	U	E	E	E	S	K	I	L	V	T
2	8	2	5	8	5	8	4	8	2	6	8	5
P	O	P	I	O	C	K	T	Y	L	I	O	H
4	5	8	6	4	3	4	2	7	5	3	4	8
H	A	U	T	E	A	T	Y	I	R	K	R	R
3	5	7	5	2	4	5	8	6	3	5	3	2
N	M	N	O	W	U	N	B	Y	O	Y	R	I
4	7	8	6	2	8	7	8	3	6	2	7	2
T	E	E	H	L	S	G	T	U	I	L	O	P
4	2	7	6	7	6	3	7	2	3	2	3	2
H	O	A	G	L	H	L	S	W	E	E	S	R

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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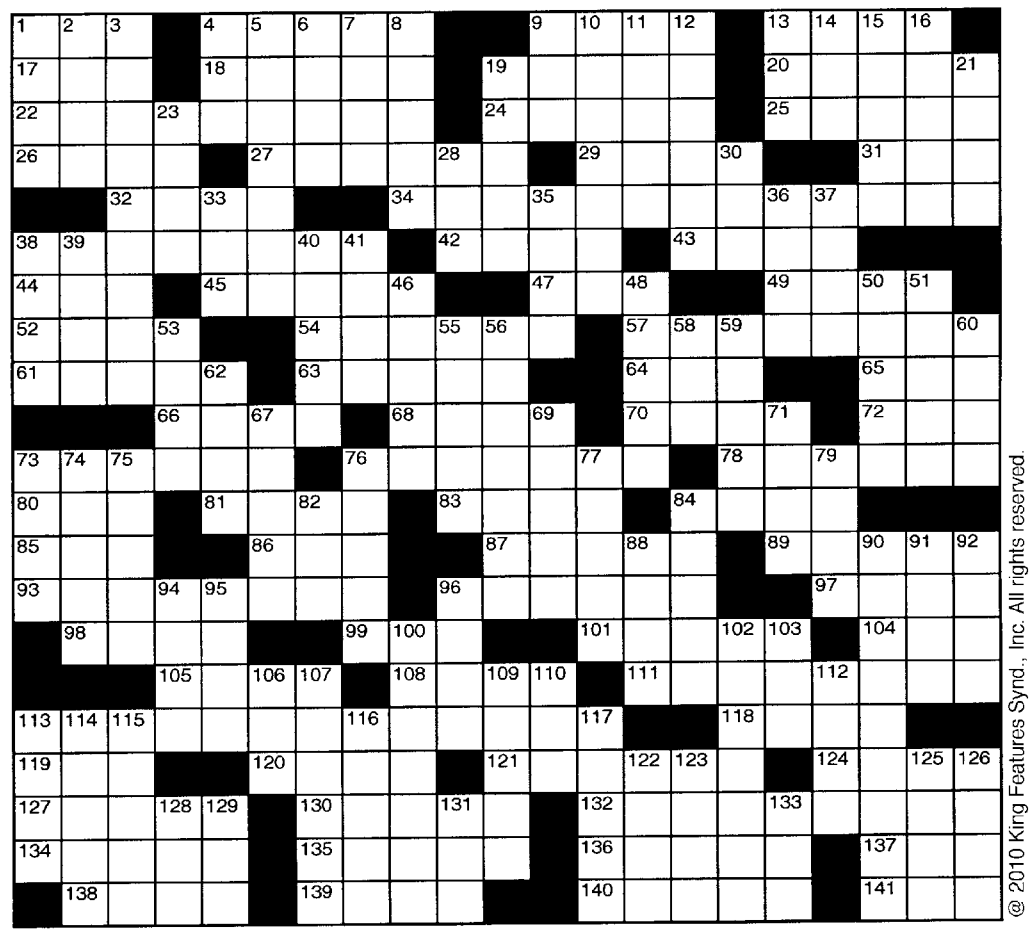
Super Crossword — FRIENDLY

ACROSS
1 Balaam's beast
4 Spud
9 Passing fashions
13 Swerve
17 "Mighty __' a Rose"
18 Physicist Joliot-Curie
19 Flick
20 Correctional
22 Start of a remark by Milton Berle
24 Where Devils fight Flames
25 Musical of "Tomorrow"
26 Swit co-star
27 They may be frozen
29 Dweeb
31 "Born in the __" ('84 hit)
32 Neat as __
34 Part 2 of remark
38 Jeopardize
42 Fairy-tale start
43 Base stuff?
44 TV's "The __ Squad"
45 Johnson of "Brief Encounter"
47 Rainbow shape
49 Where to find edelweiss
52 Shopper's Shangri-la
54 Napoleon's cousin
57 Quilled critter
61 Winning
63 Winner
64 Altar answer
65 Actor Vigoda
66 Adroit
68 Velvety plant
70 Theater section
72 DC figure
73 Dental appointment, for some
76 Part 3 of remark
78 Circular, e.g.
80 For each
81 Tibetan monk
83 Ceremony
84 Conceal
85 Sedan season
86 Maglie of baseball
87 Crete's capital
89 Beardless dwarf
93 "A Christmas Carol" name
96 Cocktail ingredient
97 Breaker
98 "Kismet" character
99 Bit part in "Cleopatra"?
101 Mythical weeper
104 __ Pan Alley
105 Spellbound
108 Word with candy or copy
111 Labors
113 Part 4 of remark
118 Connecticut campus
119 USN rank
120 Leave
121 San Luis __, CA
124 "Them!" critters
127 Actor Christopher
130 Incited, with "on"
132 End of remark
134 Designer Donna
135 Card or bill
136 Mrs. Ethan Frome
137 Kauai keepsake
138 Lovett or Waggoner
139 "Eat your dinner __ dessert!"
140 "Rawhide" role
141 Fashion monogram

DOWN
1 Utah resort
2 Comic Mort
3 Vamoose
4 Ascot or bolo
5 Set up
6 "Guarding __" ('94 film)
7 Hazzard County deputy
8 Extend a subscription
9 In place of
10 Steed or Peel
11 Alice's restaurant?
12 Barbecued
13 Loser's locale
14 He's a doll
15 Boredom
16 Pants measurement
19 He's dropped a few bricks
21 Wife of Jacob
23 Daddy
28 Even if, informally
30 Narcs' org.
33 Business abbr.
35 Rent-__
36 Forest father
37 Corduroy ridge
38 Madame Bovary
39 Wyle of "ER"
40 Choose
41 Loaded
46 Battle site of 1836
48 Prepare the champagne
50 Part of a process
51 Dignified
53 Stow
55 "__-propre" (self-esteem)
56 Massachusetts town
58 Tokyo, formerly
59 Cowboy's critter
60 Fellow
62 Distribute the deck
67 Instant
69 Indian lute
71 Writer Bagnold
73 Crude cartel
74 Fashionably nostalgic
75 Night vision?
76 "Big Three" site
77 October Revolution name
79 Deliberate
82 __ tai (rum cocktail)
84 Mist
88 Give off
90 Without complaining
91 Sinister
92 Desires
94 Skater Lipinski
95 Grouch
96 Petty clash?
100 '65 Jr. Walker & the All Stars hit
102 New Jersey city
103 __ Marie Saint
106 Raven maven?
107 Prom wear
109 __ Island
110 Society miss
112 Sitka's st.
113 Escapade
114 Perfect
115 Abrasive substance
116 __ lily
117 Posh
122 Queens stadium
123 Artist Mondrian
125 Stocking stuffers?
126 Besmirch
128 Actor Kilmer
129 Compass pt.
131 Author Umberto
133 Helium or hydrogen



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POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
REMEMBER...DO EXACTLY WHAT I TOLD YOU AND OLIVE WILL BE YOURS!
GOTCHA
SHE SAID, "FIRST, BUY TH' FLOWERS!"
OLIVE SHOT ME DOWN AGAIN, HAGGY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... MY METHOD IS FOOLPROOF!
NO WOMAN ON EARTH CAN RESIST THE APPROACH I SUGGESTED TO YOU!
WELL... YER WAY OFF ON THIS ONE...
...I DID 'ZACKLY WOT YA TOL' ME T'DO.'
YOU GAVE HER THE FLOWERS?
SHE LOVED TH' FLOWERS
THEN WHAT DID YOU DO?
SHE WUZN'T TOO HAPPY WHEN I HANDED HER TH' CHICKEN
YOU FATHEAD! I SAID POETRY, NOT POULTRY!
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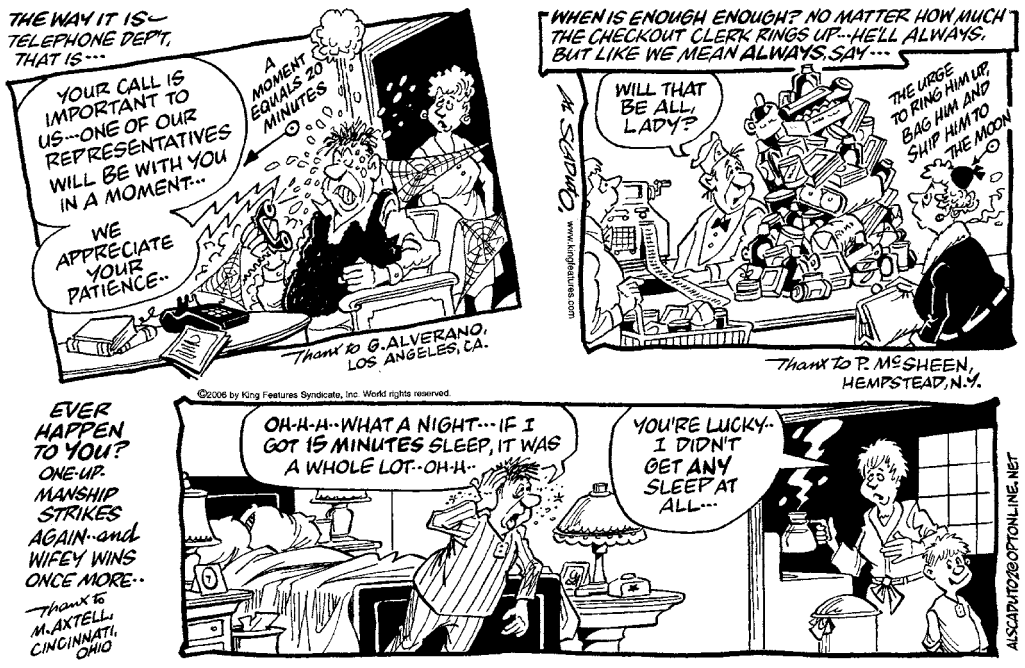
They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


THE WAY IT IS~ TELEPHONE DEPT, THAT IS···
YOUR CALL IS IMPORTANT TO US···ONE OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT··
A MOMENT EQUALS 20 MINUTES
WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE··
Thanx to G.ALVERANO, LOS ANGELES, CA.
WHEN IS ENOUGH ENOUGH? NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE CHECKOUT CLERK RINGS UP···HE'LL ALWAYS, BUT LIKE WE MEAN ALWAYS, SAY···
WILL THAT BE ALL, LADY?
THE URGE TO RING HIM UP, BAG HIM AND SHIP HIM TO THE MOON
Thanx to P. McSHEEN, HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.
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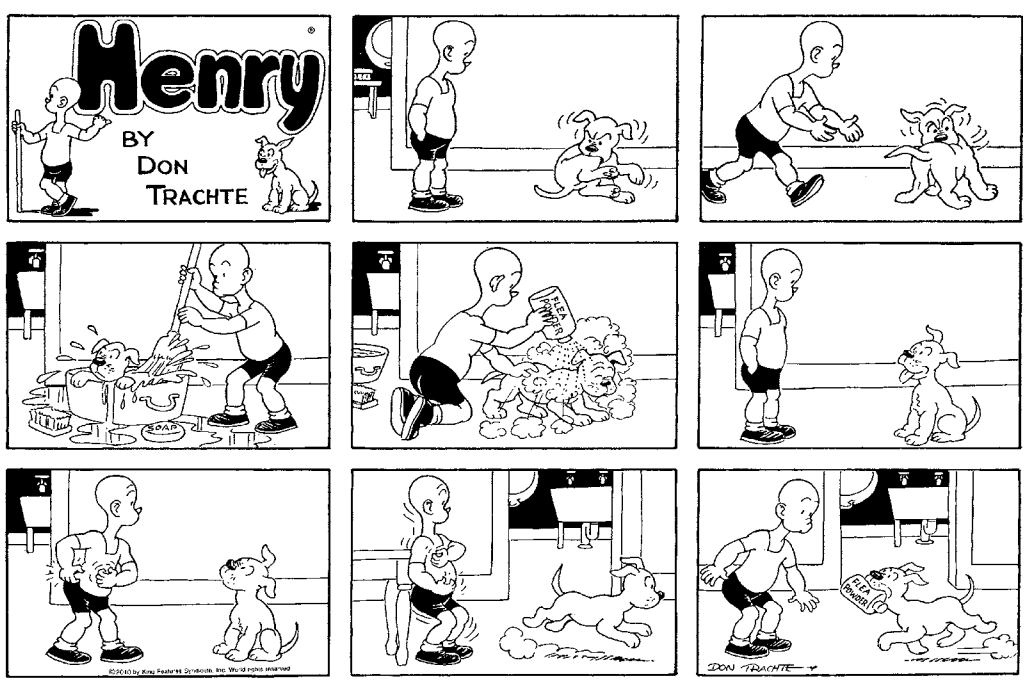
EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? ONE-UP-MANSHIP STRIKES AGAIN··and WIFEY WINS ONCE MORE··
Thanx to M.AXTELL, CINCINNATI, OHIO
OH-H-H··WHAT A NIGHT··· IF I GOT 15 MINUTES SLEEP, IT WAS A WHOLE LOT··OH-H··
YOU'RE LUCKY·· I DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP AT ALL···
ALSCADUTO@OPTONLINE.NET



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. INVENTORS: What did Max Factor invent in the early 20th century?
2. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek suffix "kinesis" mean?
3. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who once said, "I am free of all prejudices. I hate every one equally"?
4. U.S. STATES: What state has the nickname "Land of Enchantment"?
5. MEDICAL: What is the medical condition described more commonly as a reduced appetite?
6. SCIENCE: What is another name for The Northern Lights, which can be seen only in northern parts of the hemisphere?
7. MATH: How many sides does an icosahedron have?
8. HISTORY: Where did the ill-fated ship The Titanic set sail from?
9. MOVIES: What starring actor composed the theme song for his movie "Unforgiven"?
10. FOOD & DRINK: In what century did coffee drinking become widespread in Europe?

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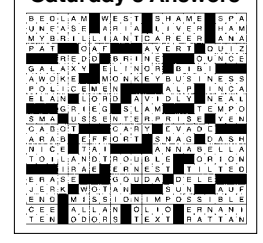
Answers
1. Makeup for movie actors
2. Movement
3. W.C. Fields
4. New Mexico
5. Dysrexia
6. Aurora borealis
7. 20
8. Southampton, England
9. Clint Eastwood
10. 17th century

Saturday's Answers



The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

SOMEDAY I WISH YOU COULD WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES.
HMMM...THAT MIGHT BE TOO FAR?
HOW ABOUT ONCE AROUND THE BLOCK IN MY UNDERWEAR?
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• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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- Miracle Worker
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Call now for amazing results. Free reading.
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$100 Security Deposit Required
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FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

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Looking for used cars. Year must be 2000 & above. We pay cash! Please call 287-7676.

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Yankees open ALCS against Wilson

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The New York Yankees avoid Cliff Lee until Game 3 of the AL championship series. In the opener, they instead face another Texas Rangers left-hander who has been greatly influenced by the postseason ace in their short time together.

"Before he was here, I was actually a right-handed second baseman," C.J. Wilson joked Thursday.

Because Lee had to pitch a deciding Game 5 in the division series against Tampa Bay, Wilson starts Game 1 against New York and lefty CC Sabathia on Friday night at Rangers Ballpark.

Wilson already was making an impressive transition from reliever in his long-desired chance to be a Rangers starter again before Texas acquired Lee on July 9. But Wilson immediately began watching his new teammate and asking questions.

"The thing with Cliff is that he keeps his process the same no matter what is going on around him," Wilson said. "As I've gotten more comfortable in my role as a starting pitcher, I've had to thicken those walls in my bubble to keep everything else out and stay in my little zone and stay with what is making me successful, and that's the thing he and I talk about all the time."

Wilson won 15 games in the regular season, then followed Lee's spectacular Game 1 start in the first round with a gem of his own, allowing two hits in 6 1-3 scoreless innings. But after winning those games at Tampa Bay, the Rangers lost both at home and had to go back to Florida for the deciding game with Lee back on the mound Tuesday night.

Now that the Rangers have finally won a postseason series for the first time, they get to play New York, which has won 27 World Series titles and 40 pennants.

The Yankees, who haven't played since wrapping up a three-game sweep over Minnesota on Saturday night, have a nine-game postseason winning streak against Texas. New York knocked the Rangers out of the playoffs in their only three previous appearances between 1996 and '99.

"You do worry about not playing for six days," said Yankees manager Joe Girardi, who celebrated his 46th birthday Thursday. "Hopefully, they won't be rusty and they will come out and the rest actually did them good."

This is the first time the Rangers open a postseason series at home. They still have never won a playoff game at Rangers Ballpark, going 0-6 including the two losses last weekend to the Rays.

Lee won both of his World Series starts for Philadelphia last year, including a six-hitter at Yankee Stadium when he struck out 10 and gave up only an unearned run. New York won the other four games.

The Yankees avoid facing Lee twice only if this series ends in fewer than seven games. Lee is 6-1 in his last eight starts against them, postseason included, going 4-0 with a 1.16 ERA and two complete games in his past four starts in New York.

For Game 1 of this series, Lee's biggest impact will be his influence on Wilson.

"I'm not a guy that pushes a bunch of information on anybody, but he's definitely a guy that knows how to pitch," Lee said. "We've shared information, ideas on how to pitch guys, what to do with certain things. Definitely, it's not very often you see a guy go from the bullpen to the starting rotation and do the things he has. A lot of credit goes to his talents and just his stuff. He knows how to pitch."

Wilson was primarily a starter in the minor leagues and missed all of 2004 recovering from ligament transplant surgery.

After being called up by the Rangers for the first time in 2005, he was 0-5 with a 12.05 ERA in six starts. But in 18 appearances out of the bullpen his rookie season, he had a 2.73 ERA and Texas continued to utilize him as a reliever, even opening the 2008 season with him as the closer.

Nick Swisher saw Wilson as a reliever plenty when he was in the AL West with Oakland. Swisher said the big difference now is the left-hander is "more of a pitcher instead of a thrower" and is using his off-speed pitches.

"The ball's moving a lot more. He's throwing the cutter, the two-seamer," Swisher said. "Before it was just grip it and rip it. ... He's really, really learned a lot through the maturation process."

Wilson always wanted to be a starter again, and the Rangers gave the crafty and insightful lefty that chance during spring training this season.

"What he's done this year is really impressive," teammate Michael Young said.

Wilson pitched 204 innings and his 15 wins were the most on the staff.

AP

New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez fields a ground ball during practice for baseball's AL championship series Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010, in Arlington, Texas. The Yankees are scheduled to play the Texas Rangers in Game 1 on Friday night.

He held left-handed batters to a major league-low .176 slugging percentage.

"He's always had great stuff," Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter said. "The difference now is his confidence."

While Wilson's record and ERA were virtually identically in 17 starts before and 16 after Lee arrived, his strikeouts increased, his walks decreased and, more importantly, the former reliever didn't fade down the stretch as the innings piled up. He hadn't thrown more than 73 2-3 innings in a season since 2002 in the minors when he was a starter.

"What Cliff has done for C.J. is make him understand if you have good stuff, throw it in the strike zone and good things will happen more often than not," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "Recently, he's starting to throw more pitches over the plate, he's starting to trust himself more and he's starting to get quicker outs than he has in the past."

Wilson was 0-1 with a 5.65 ERA in three starts against the Yankees this season, including a rain-shortened, six-inning, complete-game loss in New York in his second start back in April. He threw 96 pitches in 5 1-3 innings in August against them, and 75 pitches in three innings in September. Texas won both those games in extra innings.

While he knows what has to change, Wilson isn't getting too specific about what he needs to do Friday night.

"The thing that hurt me in all three of the starts was just the high pitch count from walks and stuff like that, falling behind in the count," he said. "I feel weird about answering questions about what I'm going to try to do. I keep saying it's proprietary technology."

Phillies playing role of favorites for first time

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia Phillies find themselves in a new role this postseason.

The two-time defending NL champions are no strangers to big games, having advanced this far in three straight years. The only difference between now and the last two trips to the league championship series is the Phillies are the favorites to win it all this time, thanks in large part to the three proven aces in their pitching rotation.

It's World Series or bust in Philadelphia. Nothing less is acceptable in a city that's become spoiled by its baseball team's success.

Who would've thought the losingest franchise in pro sports would reach the point where it's the one other teams hope to emulate?

The Phillies are trying to become the first NL club in 66 years to win three consecutive pennants, and they're going for their second World Series title in three years.

Oddsmakers have made them an overwhelming favorite to beat the San Francisco Giants in the NLCS, and also give them an edge over the New York Yankees or Texas Rangers in the World Series.

"It's a good challenge for you. Expectations should bring out the best in someone," manager Charlie Manuel said on a rainy Thursday. "At the same time, I like players to have expectations of themselves. That's even better. I like everything about our players and we think we can play and we think we can play in big, tough games. Last year when we got beat in the World Series, I said I want to go back and play the New York Yankees. That's what I was talking about."

For some, higher expectations increase pressure. But the Phillies are a loose, close-knit group that has plenty of experience playing important games in October. They expected to reach this point, even when they trailed Atlanta by seven games in the NL East in late July.

"When you get to talking favorites and what's expected of you, that goes beyond the realm of what you can control," left fielder Raul Ibanez said. "We don't focus as a club on what's expected of us. We focus on what's expected of ourselves. We have high expectations of ourselves as a team, regardless of what's being said outside the locker room.

"It's a confident team, not an arrogant team. It's a team that's going to grind it out and fight. I think the only expectations that are important are the ones we place on ourselves. It's a great environment to come work every day. We never feel like we're out of a game. Nobody ever quits. You never hear a negative word or a snide comment. Never. It's a bunch of guys that have tenacity, a passion for the game and really a passion for winning."

Game 1 against San Francisco is Saturday night at Citizens Bank Park. It'll be a marquee matchup featuring Roy Halladay and Tim Lincecum going head-to-head on the mound.

The Giants are newcomers to the postseason. They clinched the NL West on the last day of the regular season to snap a six-year playoff drought, and eliminated the injury-depleted Braves in four one-run games to advance past the first round.

Now that they're here, the Giants won't be satisfied unless they win. They appreciate how good the Phillies are, but refuse to be intimidated.

"You don't really fear any team," right fielder Cody Ross said. "As a player you always feel like you're better than teams and you have to have that sort of mentality that you can go in there and beat them two out of three during the season, but knowing in the back of your mind that they're a really good team. They've had their struggles, though. They had a tough time scoring runs throughout the year at one point. It's going to be a dog fight. Both teams have really good pitching staffs and both teams have guys who can really swing the bat. I think it's going to be an amazing series."

Giants left fielder Pat Burrell was a big part of Philadelphia's championship team in 2008. He played for the Phillies when they got swept by Colorado a year earlier after ending a 13-year postseason drought. He sees the Giants being ahead of schedule because they not only made it in but they advanced.

"We decided we were better than that and we were going to take it to the next level," Burrell said of the Phillies' mentality after losing in '07. "I think along the way you learn these types of things. That's why this team is so special. A lot of the guys haven't been to the postseason before, pivotal guys on our team. The way that the guys have performed under the pressure having not been there before is incredible. It makes for a pretty special group."

Favre's marketability takes hit due to allegations

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) -- Over 20 seasons as an NFL quarterback, Brett Favre has taken plenty of hits on the field.

Now his reputation is taking a hit, too.

The NFL is investigating the Deadspin website report that he allegedly sent below-the-waist naked photos of himself to a woman who worked for the New York Jets when he played for the team two years ago.

Favre has become one of America's most popular athletes by winning a Super Bowl, setting all kinds of passing and durability records and building an image as an everyday down-to-earth guy.

Just watch one of those Wrangler commercials, where he plays backyard pickup ball with a bunch of smiling and laughing guys while wearing a T-shirt, blue jeans and stubble.

Wrangler, arguably his highest-profile promotion, issued a statement Thursday saying "we are following the story like everyone else.

"We are not making any major decisions on our marketing program until more information is available," Wrangler spokesman Rick French said.

Even if Favre ultimately avoids punishment from the league, it's clear that this damage - fair or not - will be difficult to repair.

"It has certainly shifted to 'good family guy and one of us' to 'just like every other professional athlete' we can't trust," said sports marketing specialist Matt Delzell.

AP

In this Oct. 11, 2010, file photo, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre reacts during the third quarter of an NFL football game against the New York Jets in East Rutherford, N.J. Whatever becomes of the NFL's investigation into the allegations of impropriety against Brett Favre, there's no question the public image of the league's only grandfather and record-setting Minnesota Vikings quarterback will change.

So will we still see Favre starring in television ads after he retires?

"I see it highly unlikely for the simple fact that the companies he endorses have hung their hat on his being a good-old-boy family guy in middle America," Delzell said in an interview from his Dallas-area office, where he's a director for the entertainment marketing agency Davie Brown Talent.

Favre has dodged all questions about the story, even when given opportunities to directly deny it's true. According to marketing and public relations analysts, the Minnesota Vikings quarterback has made the matter worse by not addressing it.

Asked after Minnesota's loss to the New York Jets on Monday night if the allegation has been an embarrassment, Favre said, "I am embarrassed about this football game."

When Tiger Woods tumbled from grace following revelations of his infidelity, he took months to acknowledge his behavior and apologize for it. Michael Gordon, the chief executive officer of Group Gordon, a corporate and crisis public relations outfit in New York, compared Favre's evasiveness on this issue to what happened with Woods.

"It looks like he's trying to dance around it, which is only creating more questions around him rather than fewer," said Gordon, whose firm works with public figures, sports organizations and a variety of others. "If he were more forthcoming it would seem less ominous, but it looks like he's trying to hide something. The people who have handled these situations well are the ones who come out honestly with the facts and tell a complete story so there are no more questions down the road."

Favre doesn't have near the global stature that Woods does, and they also differ in their background.

Part of Favre's attraction to fans was the way he faced up to his past problems and overcame persistent personal tragedies to succeed on the field. His otherworldly performance the day after his dad died of a heart attack was one of the NFL's most memorable games of the past decade.

"Tiger had a very carefully crafted pristine image that at least to the outside made him look like perfect," Gordon said. "With Favre, people are fans of his play but he's never had a perfect reputation."

Favre spent the summer before the 1996 season in a rehab clinic to treat his painkiller addiction, and he has revealed his frequent drinking and carousing early in his career. Both he and his wife, Deanna, have published tell-all books about their ups and downs. They've been married 14 years.

Favre has had his detractors, whether people fed up with his waffling about playing and a perceived egotism behind it or simply Packers backers angry about his signing-with-the-Vikings betrayal. His popularity was widespread, however, transcending his days as a three-time NFL MVP in Green Bay. According to the league, his jersey was the third-best online seller on NFLShop.com over the period from April 1 through Sept. 30.

And according to the business analysts at Forbes.com, Favre made about $7 million last year alone from endorsements. He's done all kinds of advertisements over his career, from credit cards to those famed blue jeans.

Favre also was recently featured by Sears in a spot poking fun at his indecisive tendencies as he pretends to hem and haw over which TV he wants to buy. Spokesman Tom Aiello said the series was intended solely for the 2009 season and that the company is not working with him currently.

Favre's agent, Bus Cook, did not return messages this week.

As much as he's clearly enjoyed the attention and the praise over the years, Favre has also brought a chip-on-his-shoulder kind of defiance to his football career. Asked last year after arriving in Minnesota what his response was to all the people critical of his wavering, Favre shot back, "Don't watch."

But news about the back-and-forth over retirement usually just causes eyes to roll at the worst. Stories like this, even if proved to be false, typically bring far stronger reactions and true backlash.

His Vikings teammates haven't wavered, at least publicly, in their support of him. Asked whether he believes Favre concerns himself with external perceptions at this point in his career, particularly in light of the current scandal, kicker Ryan Longwell shrugged off the potential negative effect on his performance.

"Well, I think we all do to a certain level, but at the same time the public's going to think the way they think and reporters are going to write what they want," said Longwell, who also played alongside Favre with the Packers. "So as much as we do think about it and care about it, ultimately I have to make kicks and he has to play quarterback."

Union plans legal action over rise in techs

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA players association is planning legal action over the league's decision to issue more technical fouls for complaining.

Billy Hunter, the executive director of the union, said in a statement Thursday that the players weren't consulted about the rules changes, which he called "an unnecessary and unwarranted overreaction" by the league.

"We intend to file an appropriate legal challenge," Hunter said.

The NBA has told players they will be whistled for technicals for overt gestures, even if they aren't directed at a referee, running up to an official to contest a call, or other actions that don't show proper respect for the game.

"I went to a private school growing up. We had a lot of crazy rules, rules that we didn't agree with, rules that we necessarily didn't think was good. But we just had to do them," Orlando center Dwight Howard said. "So they want us to cut down on talking to the refs, as hard as that may be, because basketball is very emotional, we just have to try our best."

There figures to be a rise in technical fouls, which come with heavier fines this season. There were four called in a 16-second span of Boston's exhibition victory over New York on Wednesday, with Celtics All-Star Kevin Garnett being ejected after picking up two of them for arguing.

"I think it affects everybody, because it's such an emotional game. But that's the rule," Clippers coach Vinny Del Negro said. "So you have to control your emotions and you have to be smart about it. And it's difficult - especially for the players at times. And the rule is probably going to change the outcomes of games at times."

The league put the policy in place this season after saying its research showed fans felt that the players complained too much, which Hunter disputes.

"We have not seen any increase in the level of 'complaining' to the officials and we believe that players as a whole have demonstrated appropriate behavior toward the officials," Hunter said. "Worse yet, to the extent the harsher treatment from the referees leads to a stifling of the players' passion and exuberance for their work, we fear these changes may actually harm our product."

Besides warning of more techs, the NBA doubled the cost of them. Players and coaches are now docked $2,000 for each of their first five, all the way up to $5,000 starting at No. 16, along with a one-game suspension for every other technical.

"Players have definitely spent some time missing games because of technical fouls, which is unfortunate. But that's the penalty if you get too many technical fouls. And there's a fine for it, too. They already raised the technical fouls by $1,000 this year," Clippers center Chris Kaman said.

"I think I had one year where I had like 11, and it's just stupid. I mean, I look back and I think: 'Hey, that's $11,000 I could have had in my pocket. So shut your mouth.'"

It's the second time the players have responded to the league's plans to call more techs by threatening legal action. They filed an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board early in the 2006-07 season, when the league's crackdown on griping was referred to as a "zero tolerance policy."

Arenas has real injury, leaves after 3 minutes

WASHINGTON (AP)—In his first game at the Verizon Center in more than nine months, Gilbert Arenas(notes) was gone in a flash.

Two nights after he admitted faking a left knee injury, Arenas played just three minutes before exiting the Washington Wizards' 96-88 preseason loss to the Milwaukee Bucks on Thursday night with a strained right groin.

Arenas didn't start, but made the most of his brief return.

He didn't attempt a shot, but had three steals, a rebound, an assist and a blocked shot. Arenas teamed with John Wall on some neat passes in his first home game since being suspended for bringing guns to the locker room.

"He was good while he was in there," Washington coach Flip Saunders said.

Arenas was gone by the time the locker room was open, and Saunders wasn't terribly vocal in defending him.

Saunders fined Arenas for the fake injury Tuesday. Before Thursday's game, he wasn't eager to revisit the incident.

"That's over with. I'm not going to get into it," Saunders said. "I've done enough."

Saunders contended that Arenas had been a loyal player during training camp.

"He's been with us. Whatever we've asked him to do, he's basically done," Saunders said.

After the game, Saunders said he had no clue how much time Arenas might miss, nor did he any express any reaction when asked about the abrupt exit.

Arenas, who hadn't played a home game since Jan. 2, before his 50-game suspension and felony conviction, entered with 7:05 to play in the first quarter to tepid applause from the sparse home crowd and seemed to savor playing with Wall before asking out of the game three minutes later.

Saunders decided to team Nick Young—who played well Tuesday in Arenas' place—with Wall, the overall No. 1 draft choice. Saunders said he wasn't penalizing Arenas.

"Nick played really good and I wanted to reward him for how he played," Saunders said.

Drew Gooden led Milwaukee (3-1) with 25 points, while Carlos Delfino had 19.

Andray Blatche led Washington (3-2) with 17 points and Wall had 15 points and 11 assists in 38 minutes.

Wall and Arenas seemed to play well in their brief time together.

"We have a great time playing every time we're on the court," Wall said. "I hope he gets back as quick as possible (but) I hope he takes his time."

Bucks coach Scott Skiles didn't play Andrew Bogut, who has yet to appear in the preseason. Bogut has recovered from a gruesome fall in a game last season when he dislocated his elbow, sprained his wrist and broke his hand,

Skiles said Bogut was ready to play and should appear Saturday in Memphis, and while he'd like to limit his center's minutes, he doesn't think he's injury-prone.

"He's no more likely to get hurt than anyone on our team," Skiles said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA YOUTH LEAGUE STANDINGS

Boys U14

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
MP United FC	3	3	0	0	17	1	16	9
Paire FC-Red	3	3	0	0	12	2	10	9
Tan Holdings FC	3	1	0	2	3	6	-3	3
Shirley's FC	2	1	0	1	1	8	-7	3
Matansa FC	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
Paire FC-Black	2	0	0	2	2	6	-4	0
Independent FC	2	0	0	2	0	11	-11	0

Girls U14

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Matansa FC	3	3	0	0	21	1	20	9
Paire FC	3	1	1	1	6	7	-1	4
MP United FC	3	1	1	1	4	5	-1	4
Tan Holdings FC	3	0	0	3	1	19	-18	0

Boys U18

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
MP United FC	3	3	0	0	18	1	17	9
Paire FC	3	2	0	1	12	3	9	6
Matansa FC	3	1	0	2	1	13	-12	3
Independent FC	3	0	0	3	0	14	-14	0

VISMINDA

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When game resumed, Moises and company picked up where they left off, ending the third period with the same eight-point cushion, 69-61.

Moises, who had 20 points after three periods, added seven more while Basila and Tudela contributed two field goals apiece to foil Cabalen's comeback bids.

In the second game, VisMinda had five players making it to the scoreboard in overtime against MDX's only two to pull off a six-point win.

VisMinda earned most of its points in the extension period from the foul line, going 7-for-13 from the stripe. MDX was given only two charities and Jun Tabora made both to add with his four points. Charles Cepeda was the only other MDX player to lit up the scoreboard in overtime, tallying two points.

MDX hang on to a 33-31 halftime lead when their game last week was rained out. When the match resumed, tables switched with VisMinda on top, 50-49. James Abuy, who missed last week's game, had nine points in the third period to put VisMinda in the lead. He added five in the fourth and four in overtime for a team-high 18 points. Jun Alipio carded 12, five in the overtime.

VisMinda and MAFEA collide tonight with the winner advancing to the finals. The loser of the match will then battle the second and last finals ticket against the winner of the MDX-Cabalen playoff match.

First Game

MAFEA-Ebisuya 87 – Moises 27, Rebuyon 22, Basilla 16, Tudela 16, Tengco 8.

Cabalen-Wings Travel 80 – Guiang 30, Diaz 19, Santos 14, Guiab 6, Yalung 5, Berline 4, Olivos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-30, 40-49, 69-61, 87-80.

Second Game

VisMinda-Kids Cove 83 – Abuy 18, Alipio 12, Abedes 11, Bicera 8, Villarin 8, Cosino 8, De la Torre 4, Rangamar 4, Pineda 3, Brien 3, Manalili 2, Montano 2.

MDX-Monsters 77 – Tabora 35, De Guzman 20, Trajano 6, Garon 3, Tobias 3, Dayrit 2, Sabino 2, Ebuen 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-17, 31-33, 50-49, 69-69, 83-77.

Mongami rules USSP Columbus Day 8-ball tilt

John Mongami didn't drop a game on his way to victory in the USSP Customer Appreciation 8-ball Championship last Sunday.

Mongami sent Vince Cabrera, Ron Chisato and Taylor Watanabe to the loser's bracket. Cabrera had beaten Nizer Masayas, and Chisato had a win over Leonard Sablan. Watanabe topped Ben Norita and Simeon Kapileo before falling to Mongami.

Patrick Cepeda rebounded from a loss to Kapileo, eliminating Erina Olkeriil, Norita and Chisato. Sablan took out Brenda Ridep, but Annie Tesiro made Cabrera and Sablan sit down.

Kapileo recovered by finishing off Tesiro and Cepeda, but Watanabe stopped his march to the final.

With a wide-open break, Mongami had a series of easy shots and made the most of them, eliminating Watanabe and taking the championship in one game.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Champion John Mongami, left, and runner-up Taylor Watanabe pose with their cash prizes during the awards ceremony for the USSP Customer Appreciation 8-ball Championship last Sunday.

Mongami got $100 and a trophy from Pacific Amusement for his win. Watanabe earned $50 and a trophy for second, with Kapileo taking the third place trophy.

The players in Sunday's final earned their spots by playing in free September and October qualifying tournaments.

The next Customer Appreciation 8-ball tournament is set for Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. There will be four qualifying tournaments on Sundays.

This time the entry fee is $5.00, with half going to the qualifying tournament winner and half to increase the pot for the final tournament.

Sign-up begins at 7:30pm. Opponents are chosen by blind draw for the double elimination tournaments. Play follows Billiard Congress of America rules.

For more information, call Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(PR)***

Ride 'Round the Ridge hits road on Nov. 6

The inaugural Ride 'Round the Ridge or dubbed as the Triple R will hit the road November 6, joining the growling list of mountain bike races held on Saipan all throughout the year.

The course promises to be one for the books with riders starting the race at the old Saipan Radar station, going down the Laderan Tank trail, passing Sirena, Kalabera cave, and emerging at the Bird Island lookout. From there, bikers will head to the pavement until turning left and traveling up the Kimikaze trail and linking up with the coral road behind the Marianas Country Club. When they reach the million-gallon tank, riders will turn left and pedal up to the Radar Station.

Bikers joining the recreational/beginners division will complete the course once, but veteran riders will do another lap to finish the inaugural race.

Finishers t-shirts await bikers, while top finishers in the men's and women's divisions will receive prizes from event sponsors.

Registration is now on going with entry forms available at Saipan Bike Pro in Middle Road in Chalan Laulau.

For more information, contact race organizer Brad Ruszala at bradinthesand96950@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

MAFEA

From Page 28

session to Mobil and after failing to get a decent look from downtown, Errol Peredo decided for a two-point basket to slice MAFEA's lead to three, 86-89, 19 ticks to go in the game.

To stop the clock SIP then fouled Mendoza, who had a split for MAFEA's 90-86 lead. Mendoza missed his second free throw and SIP grabbed the rebound, but the latter failed to make a shot when MAFEA's Joemary Tumaquip intercepted Marvin Rabauliman's outlet pass to Pando Muleta. After the steal, MAFEA ran down the clock to preserve the win and march to the finals first.

All is not loss for SIP despite the defeat, as it will still play the winner of the MDX-Cavite tiff on Tuesday for the second and last finals berth. The defending champion MDX-Chow Queen will duel Cavite in a do-or-die match today after the VisMinda-MAFEA tussle for the first finals seat in the masters division.

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt hang on to win the winner's bracket semifinals despite wasting a 22-point lead, 64-42. The first finalist enjoyed its biggest advantage in the third period, but began losing the double-digit midway in that canto when Esdrelon was forced to return to their bench after hurting his knee in a collision.

Esdrelon stayed on the floor for a few seconds, massaging his knee and to make things worse, he was called for an offensive foul and then drew a second technical when he complained about the infraction.

With Esdrelon out, SIP had a 20-4 windup anchored by Rabauliman and Estolas, who combined for 15 points in the third canto. By the end of the third period, spectators were up on their feet, anticipating down to the wire finish, as only six points separated MAFEA and SIP, 68-62.

In the fourth quarter, Esdrelon started out for MAFEA and suffered another blackeye when he was called for an unsportsmanlike foul. Esdrelon committed the infraction when he bit to Estolas' fake underneat the basket with the former ramming into the latter.

Estolas drilled the two charities to move SIP within four, 71-75, and the team muffed its chances to move closer in its next play when Peredo missed a jumper.

Esdrelon then redeemed himself from an earlier booboo, scoring five straight points. He hit a triple after getting caught one foul away from the limit and then nailed a layup, giving MAFEA an 80-71 lead, with less than five minutes left in the game.

The MAFEA gunner then let teammates Tumaquip and Bernard Aquino took over in the ensuing plays before coming up with the dagger in the homestretch.

Aquino contributed 18 markers for MAFEA, while Tumaquip added 12. Darwin Barbo chipped in 14, while Mendoza had 11 in his first playoff game.

Estolas top-scored for SIP with 25 points, while Peredo tallied 20. Rabauliman and Muleta posted 14 and 12, respectively, but was held to a field goal each in the fourth quarter.

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt 90 – Esdrelon 29, Aquino 18, Barbo 14, Tumaquip 12, Mendoza 11, Talania 4, Berline 2, Fernandez 2.

SIP-Mobil 86 – Estolas 25, Peredo 20, Rabauliman 14, Muleta 2, Gamboa 6, Manalo 4, Gapor 2, De Guzman 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-15, 50-37, 68-62, 90-86.

FOUR

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Also holding a clean 3-0 mark is MP United, which topped Paire Black, 4-2. Dakota Hall had a pair of goals for MP United, while teammate Jake Lee and Jehn Joyner added one each.

Tan Holdings 3, Matansa 2

In the third game in the boys U14, Tan Holdings finally broke into the win column after a 0-2 start, following a 3-2 victory over Matansa Football Club.

The win lifted Tan Holdings FC to third place in the team standings, behind MP United and Paire. Shirley's is in fourth place with a 0-0-1 win-draw-loss record, followed by Matansa (0-0-1), Paire Black (0-0-2), and Independents (0-0-2).

GIRLS U14

Matansa 12, Tan Holdings 0

In the girls U14 division, Matansa is undefeated with its 3-0 slate.

Matansa kept its record perfect after a 12-0 demolition of Tan Holdings FC at the San Antonio Elementary School Field.

Tahlia Hideo and Doreen Ravell canned three goals apiece, while Andrea Camacho, Almina Deleon Guerrero, and Chelsea Leskosek made two each.

Camacho has earned nine goals in three games in the fall league to boost her chances for the Golden Boot award. As a team, Matansa has scored 21 goals and gave up only one.

Paire 1, MP United 1

The other game in the girls U14 division between Paire and MP United resulted in a 1-1 draw.

Amy Taylor logged the lone goal for MP United, while Tricia Ingram scored one for Paire.

Paire and MP United hold identical 1-1-1 slates.

BOYS U18

MP United 8, Matansa 1

MP United's boys U18 team was the fourth squad to keep its record unblemished after Week 3, following an 8-1 triumph over Matansa at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

YiShan Wang had a hat-trick for MP United, while Moon Bin Hong recorded two goals. Paul Yoon Jin Han, Diego Yoon Teak Han, and Bruce Li tallied one goal apiece for MP United.

MP United has gained 18 goals in three games, while Matansa has scored only one and dropped to a 1-0-2 record.

Paire 7, Independents 0

Duplicating Wang's feat in the boys U18 division was Tim Tawanpiy.

Tawanpiy's three goals powered Paire to a 7-0 shutout win over Independents.

Also making it to the scoreboard for Paire were Vince Palacios with two goals and Yong Park and Joseph Ichihara, who posted one goal apiece.

Paire improved to a 2-0-1 record, while Independents absorbed its third loss in as many games.

ROACH

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yesterday's training session.

Two weekends ago Pacquiao drove down to Camp Aguinaldo to attend the PMA Alumni Association Family Sportsfest while last weekend he arrived in Manila to participate in a running event.

He arrived in Baguio City from that race past midnight on Monday, after also meeting with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. and attending to some of his duties in Congress.

He skipped his morning jog but sparred seven rounds, four with undefeated Glen Tapia (7-0, 5 KOs) and three with the more experienced Michael Medina (24-2-2, 19 KOs).

Roach said the sparring was "good" and indicated Pacquiao was "doing fine."

Pacquiao, Roach said, will spar later in the week with WBA light welterweight champion Amir Khan, who has been training alongside the pound-for-pound king.

Top Rank promoter Bob Arum is scheduled to arrive in Manila on Saturday and will proceed to Baguio for a media preview with Pacquiao on Oct. 18. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Favre's marketability takes hit due to allegations

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Sports

Yankees open ALCS against Wilson

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MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt enters finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt punched the first finals ticket in the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League, following a gutsy 90-86 victory against Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense-Mobil during their semis game last Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Elmer Esdrelon scored 29 points in the crucial win, including a back-breaking triple in the homestretch to avoid a MAFEA monumental collapse.

Esdrelon's trey from the right key gave MAFEA an 89-82 lead, with 53 seconds in the fourth quarter. The triple came after Estolas canned his third trey of the night and moved SIP within four, 82-86.

MAFEA sued for time and when game resumed, Esdrelon took matters in his own hands, pulled up for a triple after getting a screen from a teammate, and made the clutch basket, giving his team more breathing space.

Trailing by seven, SIP refused to give up and drew another two-pointer from Estolas. A missed undergoal stab from Edmark Mendoza returned pos-

See MAFEA on Page 27

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt's Darwin Barbo, left, goes up for a shot against SIP-Mobil's Gil Gapor during their semis game in the UFO caging last Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Paire Footbal Club player hits the ball during their game against MP United during the opening of the U18 division of the NMIFA fall league. Paire lost its debut, but notched two straight wins, including a 7-0 shutout against Independents last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Four teams still undefeated in NMIFA league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United and Paire Red nailed lopsided wins in Week 3 of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League to share the lead in the boys U14 division.

Paire Red crushed Shirley's Football Club at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, 8-1, to improve to a 3-0 record. Paire drew two goals apiece from Billy Hinson and Hunter Jewell and got one each from Daniel Auther, Kim Won Jun, Brian Lee, and Kautong Omengkar to cruise to an easy win.

See FOUR on Page 27

VisMinda sets semis duel against MAFEA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

VisMinda-Kids Cove and MAFEA-Ebisuya pulled off close wins over separate foes in the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League last Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court to arrange their semis tiff in the masters division.

VisMinda needed extra five minutes to thwart MDX-Monsters Energy Drink, 83-77, and gain the second semis seat in the masters division. MAFEA-Ebisuya notched the first semis ticket after stunning pennant champion Cabalen-Wings Travel, 87-80.

Both games in the masters division were make-up ones with MAFEA leaning on its strong starters and VisMinda getting a lift from its bench to eke out wins in the extended matches.

In the first make-up game, MAFEA drew double figures from four of its five players to beat Cabalen. Ernie Moises had 27 points, Francis Rebuyon chipped in 22, and Banjo Basilla and Joe Tudela tallied 16 apiece. Orlan Tengco added eight points for the depleted MAFEA.

The Ebisuya-backed MAFEA led Cabalen, 64-56, when the game was suspended at the 3:19 mark of the third quarter last week.

See VISMINDA on Page 27

Roach wants Pacquiao to focus on training

BOXING

MANILA— Celebrated trainer Freddie Roach made things clear: He's had enough of Manny Pacquiao's long trips and late-night basketball.

Roach said he wants the seven-division champion to conserve his energy and quit round-trip drives from Baguio to Manila and back, saying that even if Pacquiao sleeps in his car, "it is definitely tiring and won't do him any good."

Pacquiao

Roach told the Inquirer after Pacquiao's workout at the Shape Up Gym in Baguio City Tuesday that he wants to put an end to the Filipino ring icon's basketball nights, which is often followed by missed roadwork the following morning.

There has been growing concern on Pacquiao's frequent trips to Manila, his nightly hoops and missed jogs. But the pound-for-pound champ dispelled concerns by showing up sharp for

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